

# THE CULTIVATOR.

THIRD

To Improve the Soil and the Mind.

SERIES

VOL. VI.

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No. I.

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PRICE FIFTY CENTS A YEAR.

THE CULTIVATOR has been published twenty-four years. A NEW SERIES was commenced in 1853, and the five volumes for 1853, 4, 5, 6, 7, can be furnished, bound and post-paid, at \$1.00 each.

The same publishers issue "THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN," a weekly Agricultural Journal of 16 quarto pages, making two vols. yearly of 416 pages, at \$2.00 a year. They also publish

THE ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL REGISTER OF RURAL AFFAIRS—144 pp. 12 mo. — price 25 cents — \$2.00 per dozen. This work was commenced in 1855, and the nos. for 1855, '56 and '57, have been issued in a beautiful volume, under the title of "RURAL AFFAIRS,"—containing 440 engravings of Houses, Barns, Out-Houses, Animals, Implements, Fruits, &c.—price \$1.00—sent by mail post-paid.

## The Twenty-fifth Volume.

The present number of THE CULTIVATOR will reach many who have not been familiar with it in the past, and a few words of introduction are therefore proper. Over half-a-million of the yearly volumes of this journal have been subscribed for and issued to the farmers of the country since its establishment in 1833,—not a few of which are still preserved for consultation and reference. Enjoying thus a Popularity and Permanence unequalled in the annals of similar publications, it can also boast an unparalleled number of Correspondents, including in their range every section of the Union, and the British Provinces; and, as a consequence, it will be found to contain more of the real PRACTICE of Agriculture—*more information of an available kind*, than many periodicals of twice or four times its subscription price. The editors and publishers have peculiar facilities for placing it above competition—its connection with a Weekly Journal enabling them to expend a far greater outlay upon its contents, than its own large circulation alone would warrant. The volume for 1857 is referred to as an example of the variety and value of its pages from month to month, while we hope the future will be an improvement even upon the past. *Fifty Cents a year.*

For the character and scope of the REGISTER OF RURAL AFFAIRS, reference is made to the advertisement of that work on page 40. It has been uniformly pronounced an indispensable manual for every cultivator of the soil, and as no part of its contents is identical with those of the CULTIVATOR, it forms a beautiful present to the subscribers of the latter work—compressing a vast amount into small compass, and illustrated most profusely and elegantly. *Twenty-five cents a copy.*

CLUBS OF SUBSCRIBERS FOR THE CULTIVATOR are supplied gratis with the REGISTER, as follows:

Price of 10 copies of BOTH WORKS,.....	\$5.00
Postage on the Register, (2 cts. a copy,)....	.20
	\$5.20

Canada subscribers we are obliged also to charge with American postage on the CULTIVATOR at the rate of 6 cts. a copy, (60 cts. on a club of ten.)

### PREMIUMS TO AGENTS.

In order to remunerate our friends in some measure for the assistance we receive from them—and as the prices of all our works are placed so low as to render any further reduction in the shape of commissions, *absolutely impossible*, we have for some years past offered a number of prizes for competition to those engaged during the winter months in extending the circulation of our works. We have offered this year a list of premiums to be decided January first, but the awards of which this number goes to press too early for us to publish. We now present another list to be decided April 10, and open to the same competitors and subscriptions among which the January premiums have already been awarded.

1. For the largest amount of cash subscriptions to our Journals, at the lowest Club Rates, received at this office APRIL TENTH, or previously, we will pay.  
TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS.
2. For the TWO next largest amounts, each,  
TWENTY DOLLARS.
3. For the THREE next largest amounts, each,  
FIFTEEN DOLLARS.
4. For the FOUR next largest amounts, each,  
TEN DOLLARS.
5. For the FIVE next largest amounts, each,  
FIVE DOLLARS.

And that those who did not begin canvassing early enough for the January prizes, or who took one of the two lowest offered, (either \$10 or \$5) may have some inducement to compete more vigorously for the April list—should the first of the above premiums be taken by any one who in January received neither a first, second or third prize, we will make it THIRTY-FIVE instead of Twenty-five Dollars; and should either second or third prize be taken under similar circumstances, we will increase them each \$5, (making them respectively \$25 and \$20.)

TWENTY COPIES CULTIVATOR AND REGISTER sent by one individual, entitles him to a *free copy* of both.

SHOW-BILLS AND PROSPECTUSES.—We shall be glad to supply these for general dissemination. Agents or others who have failed to receive them up to this time, or who wish further supplies, will please "make a note of this."

POST-OFFICES.—These and the STATE should always be specified with great care, and it is an additional precaution against mistakes to add the *County*. Clubs of subscribers may be sent to as many different offices as may be desired.

### Management of Manure.

MESSRS. EDITORS—The letter of the farmer's friend and ours, JOHN JOHNSTON, published on page 362 of the current volume of the Co. Gent., (we name the page so that subscribers can readily find the article, and those who have not can read it, and those who have read may read again,) will be worth a life subscription to that paper to every farmer who will practice on the recommendations there given. In allusion to this matter, "we speak that we do know and testify that we have seen," so far as rotting and saving manures are concerned. We have seen, and can see at any time, piles of manure drawn into the field for next year's planting, and covered over so much surface that every drenching will penetrate them to the earth on which they rest. We have seen, the year after, where such heaps have been laid, the effects of the winter wash from them for several rods from the outline of the heaps. This wash did not hurt the land, of a certainty, over which it passed. A luxuriant vegetation told too plainly the reverse of this. But it did injure the corn crop the next year, for it took away much of the very aliment which had been taken to the field to effect its growth.

What would be thought of a farmer who stacked his hay by drawing it to a convenient place, and tipping it from his cart in as compact a manner as tipping out would admit, yet necessarily covering a great surface? The natural inference would be that the man was crazy,—that his hay would soak through never to dry again,—go into a rapid fermentation—mould and rot. Reason teaches every farmer that this would be so, and they accordingly stack their hay in the manner best calculated to resist storms. Often after the stack is commenced, if the weather is fine, it is allowed to stand and settle before it is finished, to give it a more storm-resisting compactness and form. Thus we often see that well cured and well stacked hay comes out in winter (except the outside, exposed to storms,) as bright as barn-cured hay.

The same practice recommends itself in forming manure heaps; the less surface they present to atmosphere and storms, the less loss—the more conical their form the better they will turn off heavy rains to which they are exposed at all seasons, and the less the rains penetrate them, the more they will retain their fertilizing qualities for future use.

We are aware that it requires more labor and care to form a manure heap in a way to have it rain resisting, than it does to drop the loads pell-mell over three or four times the surface they ought to occupy. But it is the labor in which there is profit, and profit is the stimulant of all labor.

We have learned to prevent our manure from fire-fanging long ago. It is done by simply mixing the manure from the horse stable with that from the cattle stalls. If this is not sufficient, add an occasional coating of gypsum, muck, or turf from the roadside. The two latter we know are not readily obtained in our frozen winters, but plaster can be applied at any time. Thus manure is not only saved, but its quality improved beyond what it would otherwise be. Where muck is added, additional points are obtained. A substance which in its natural state is charging the air with malaria, sickness and death, is converted into a healthy and powerful fertilizer, producing bread to the sower

and the consumer; and as to the beauty of the thing, we suppose any one would prefer seeing a cavity in the swamp filled with clean water, with green fields around it, to looking upon an unsightly morass, to catch the straggling seed of every weed, and grow up to all manner of bushes and weeds W. B.

### Parsnips and Other Roots.

One of our subscribers in Michigan gives us the following items of his experience in the cultivation and use of parsnips and other roots for stock, with the hope that what he has learned this year may benefit others in succeeding years:

"For a few years after commencing to read 'THE CULTIVATOR,' I noticed occasionally articles recommending the cultivation of roots; but as none of my neighbors were in the habit of raising any crops of this kind, save potatoes and a few turnips or ruta bagas, I had not the courage, being about the youngest farmer in my school district, to venture upon any innovation upon time-honored customs. At length, however, I became persuaded by the statements I found in your columns to venture upon a trial, though only upon a small scale, so as to have enough for medicine at least, as I felt sure that an occasional change of feed would be as agreeable and as beneficial to digestive powers of domestic animals, as I have experienced a similar variety to be in my own 'internal machinery.' Accordingly I have for three years raised small patches of mangold wurtzels, sugar beets, and carrots, and am so well satisfied with them as being more economical, more relishing, and more nourishing than hay and dry food constantly, that I intend to enlarge my root culture considerably next year. Last year I was induced by an article on parsnips in THE CULTIVATOR, Jan., 1856, to add this to the list of my 'root medicines,' as I call them. Finding the few I raised last year apparently as highly relished by my stock as they were on the family table, I have raised a larger patch this last season. From what I had heard and read, I anticipated that there would be more difficulty in getting them started from the seed, and in the first weeding, than even with carrots. Mr. WATSON, in his Prize Essay on Practical Husbandry, says that the early stages of parsnip culture are more difficult than in the case of the carrot;—that the vitality of the seed is quite uncertain;—and that they germinate so slowly that weeds will generally get the ascendancy, and occasion great labor and difficulty at the first weeding. Now I wish to say to those who may be deterred by such representations, that I have not found it any more difficult to get parsnips either started or weeded than carrots. On the contrary, I think there is less difficulty in weeding them the first time, as they come up with a broader leaf, and are more easily distinguished from the surrounding weeds.

"I have been induced to make this statement by the desire of making my little experience in root culture of some use to others, and of thus paying a debt I owe to you and others in the way which Franklin has recommended. I feel under obligation, certainly, to those whose statements have persuaded me to commence the cultivation and use of roots, and I know of no better way to discharge this obligation than by trying to persuade others. With a rich and mellow soil, pretty free from weeds, crops of beets, carrots, parsnips, &c., can



be raised, which will go farther and do more good than all the hay usually got from five times the same area."

#### Draining of Land:—What Hinders more Frequent Trials of it?

There are two facts in regard to drainage which seem deserving of some consideration, as a proper understanding of their causes and significance may suggest or indicate methods of extending more widely the benefits resulting from a judicious employment of this very certain agent in increasing the fertility and productiveness of three-fourths of our lands. The facts to which we refer are these:—Firstly, those who *have made* trials of draining their land, are generally, so far as we are informed, well satisfied with the results, so much so, indeed, that many of them have continued their operations as fast as capital and labor could be commanded for the purpose. Secondly, few comparatively have made any trial of this great improvement in agriculture, notwithstanding the oft-repeated and convincing demonstrations that it is a paying and most beneficial operation. Between these two facts there is a seeming incongruity. On the one hand we see or hear of farmers who eagerly avail themselves of every opportunity of extending the drainage of their farms, until every acre of land suitable for such kind of amendment has been very thoroughly underdrained. On the other hand, we behold the spectacle of hundreds and thousands—the great majority, indeed—shaking their heads and turning away, seemingly unconvinced or determined not even to try, when the most satisfactory and irrefutable proofs and demonstrations are placed before them, now and again, that draining is always a paying and highly advantageous operation. The former act as if they *knew*, as they certainly do, that the draining of land is a great improvement; and the latter act as if they also *knew*, which they do not, that all which has been said and written of its beneficial results were untrue, unreliable, or of no pecuniary or other importance, at least to them.

But this slowness to be convinced, or to act in accordance with convictions, may proceed from yet another cause, which we presume is the real one in a large proportion of the cases under consideration. This cause consists in a supposition that the process of draining land is one which requires some considerable skill, labor and capital, or that there are many things to render it very difficult and nearly impracticable. There are some, doubtless, who have heard, seen, or read enough to convince them of the advantages of draining this or that field of heavy clay or wet land, but are hindered by the supposition that they cannot secure the labor or capital required, and, even if these were to be had, that they have not sufficient skill to superintend and direct the several operations. There are difficulties and hindrances of the kind just named, we are fully aware and ready to admit, but they are greatly exaggerated by the timid and unwilling. The cost, for example, of a thorough drainage does not usually exceed \$25 per acre; and the crops are usually so much increased that even this outlay is sometimes returned, both principal and interest, in two or three years; while scarcely ever does a prudent manager fail to obtain from the extra crops produced by draining, a full return for all expenditures within five years. There can hardly be

found, therefore, a better, safer, or more remunerative investment for capital.

Then, again, as to skill or ability to direct operations, there are books and agricultural periodicals which furnish information sufficient to enable any one of resolute mind to understand and direct as to every thing requisite to success.

But from questions put by some readers of our monthly, we incline to the opinion that the greatest hindrance of all in making trials of draining, is the want of a thorough and *undoubting* conviction of its advantages. When one gets at the *real thought* of some, we find that though not disposed openly and directly to question or doubt such statements of its advantages as have frequently been made, yet they secretly and in their heart have some doubt. They are not now *fully* convinced. Now the best way to remove this hindrance, is to have some proofs submitted to their senses. Then they would have to yield an *undoubting* belief. For this purpose a visit to a drained farm, or making a trial on a small scale for oneself, might suffice. Where neither of these can conveniently be done, we would recommend as likely to give some small proof of the good of draining, that a part of some hard clay or wet land should be ridged up in lands of one rod in width, with a deep dead furrow. The centre strip of each land will show some of the benefits of draining in a *slight degree*.

#### Fruits for the South.

As I am planting an orchard for the production of the different fruits, please give your views in the Cultivator, on the success of fruits raised north and south. I have purchased trees of different kinds from the northern nurseries, and have found them to fail here in this latitude, although soil and attention was the same, as they (the trees) received at their northern home. G. W. E. Macon, Miss.

A part of the northern fruits do well at the South, and others fail. Peaches generally succeed there in favorable localities, and early apples; our northern winter apples are mostly a failure. The Duke and Morello cherries succeed best, more particularly the Early Richmond and Mayduke—the Hearts are often successful, but more uncertain. Some pears succeed finely, but more experience is needed with the different varieties.

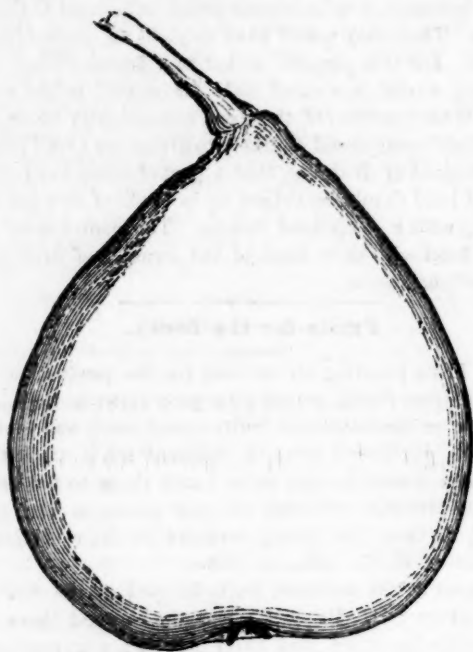
#### Canker Sore Mouth.

MESSRS. EDITORS—I herewith send you a receipt for that distressing or hateful disease, canker sore or baby sore mouth. I never knew it to fail if made right.

Take the bark off of the root of black Haw, leaves and stems of Privet, and leaves and blossoms of Thoroughwort, (Boneset,)—make a tea of each separately, and take of each as follows:—One cupfull of black Haw, the same of Privet, and one-third of a cupfull of Thoroughwort, and one-third of a cupfull of honey—shake well, and it is ready for use. Alum, the size of a pea, pulverized, is considered a help. Wash the mouth from six to twelve times a day, and swallow a little each time. Babies' mouths can be swabbed with a soft linen swab, or put half or one tea-spoonful into its mouth, and turn its head so that the wash will pass all through the mouth. It must be frequently used, and it will certainly cure. Keep in a cool place or it will sour. J.

### The New Pears.

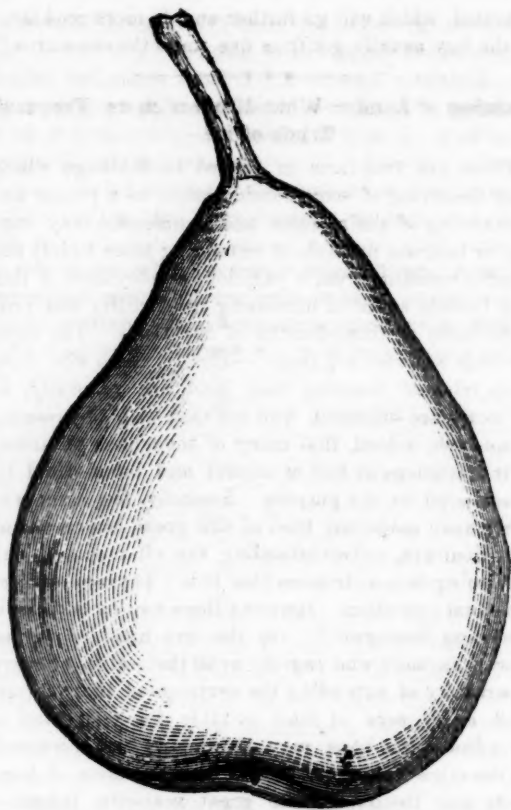
Among the newer pears, or those which have been tested more particularly within a few years, there are a few out of many hundreds which give promise of excellence or value, and some of these have already proved themselves worthy of extensive cultivation. To point out and describe these or a portion of them, accompanied with good illustrations, we have no doubt will be acceptable to many of our readers, and assist them in making selections and in adopting some of them in their fruit gardens. We commence this task in our present number, and intend to continue the descriptions. In making the drawings, we have been largely assisted by specimens furnished by our friends ELLWANGER & BARRY of Rochester, selected with care from their vast pomological garden.



LAURE DE GLYMES (OF BIVORT.)

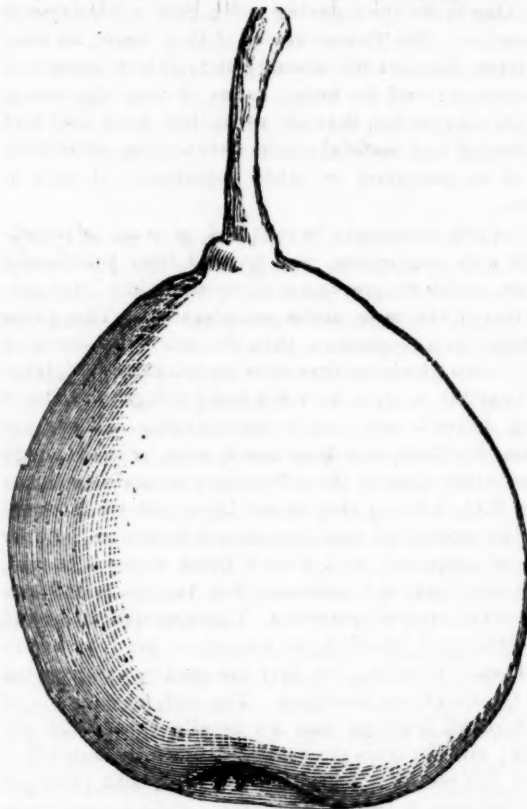
**LAURE DE GLYMES** (of Bivort.) This is a new European variety, which has not yet been much tested in this country, but so far appears to be worthy of attention. It is a good grower on quince, and productive. It is medium in size, conical-ovate, regular, the whole surface nearly covered with a russet, which becomes a rich light orange at maturity—scarcely reddened towards the sun; stem three-fourths of an inch in length, inserted without depression in a fleshy base; calyx moderately sunk in a smooth basin; flesh yellowish white, slightly granular, buttery, not melting, with a high and somewhat perfumed flavor—quality "very good." It is probable that the quality of this pear may vary considerably, or be found to range, under the various circumstances of cultivation, soil and season, from "good" to "best." It ripens about the middle of autumn, sometimes continuing quite late.

**BEURRE NANTAIS** (or Beurre de Nantes.) This pear promises to be of much value. The tree is an erect and vigorous grower, both on pear and quince, comes early into bearing, makes a fine pyramid, and is very productive. It has been cultivated many years in France, its place of origin, but not until recently have its merits become appreciated in this country. It is



BEURRE NANTAIS.

rather large in size, (the drawing being made from a quite moderate specimen,) pyriform or pyramidal, neck narrow; skin greenish-yellow, with minute dots; stem



ZEPHIRIN GREGOIRE.

nearly an inch long, not sunk; calyx in a moderate rather narrow basin; flesh buttery and melting, with



a rich, agreeable, perfumed "very good" flavor. Ripens about the middle of autumn.

**ZEPHIRIN GREGOIRE.** Inferior to the last as a fine grower, but exceeds it in the high excellence of its quality. It is very productive—the growth of the tree rather slender. Its lateness,—ripening through the latter part of autumn,—increases its value. It is medium in size, roundish-obovate, light green, reddened when fully exposed to the sun, stem an inch and a fourth long, fleshy at insertion; calyx open, in a narrow basin; flesh buttery, very melting, fine grained, with an excellent perfumed flavor—"best."

#### Western Apples.

**MESSRS. LUTHER TUCKER AND SON**—I send you by express a small box of the best apples I ever tasted. It is distinguished for its very high aromatic flavor—keeps till July—scarcely one rots or decays. We have the fruit plenty in this vicinity, but have no name for it with which I am satisfied. Some call it the Cumberland Spice, but it cannot be that. The tree is vigorous—bears in clusters, and rather inclined to bear only every other year. The specimens sent are much smaller than the usual size of the apple. It is hardly fit to eat till January and February. **URI MANLY.** *Marshall, Illinois.*

The specimens came in good condition and soon matured. It is a rather large, light green, roundish-conical fruit, about as large or a little larger than Peck's Pleasant as it usually grows here, but more conical. It has a mild, sub-acid, pleasant flavor—not equal to some of our best sorts, but worthy of placing in the scale of the American Pomological Society, as "good" or "very good." We do not recognize it as any well known eastern sort, but western soil and climate often exert such a change, as sometimes to render it difficult to identify sorts. We should think from our correspondent's statement, that it must be a valuable fruit for the west—it might be of no value here.

#### Measuring Corn in the Crib.

In the Saturday Evening Post of the 21st Nov., a rule is given for measuring corn in the crib. It is multiplying the cubic contents by  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , which is to give the bushels by cutting off the right hand figure. That rule is certainly not correct.

A Winchester or U. S. bushel (2,150.42 inches,) is nearly a cubic foot (1,728 inches,) and a fourth, (432 inches.) They make 2,160 inches, or 9.58 inches more than a bushel, making a difference of about a bushel in 224 $\frac{1}{2}$  bushels, or as corn is measured, two bushels in the ear for one of shelled corn, one bushel of shelled corn for about 449 bushels, which is near enough for all practical purposes. Therefore, a good, simple rule is to divide the cubic feet contents of the crib by 5; deduct that fifth from the contents, and it will leave the number of bushels the crib contains.

*Example.*—Suppose a crib 20 ft. long, 10 ft. high, and 8 ft. wide.  $20 \times 10 \times 8 = 1,600$ —deduct one-fifth (320) from 1,600, leaves 1,280 as the number of bushels in the crib, or 640 bushels of shelled corn; by cutting off the right hand figure, gives 128 as the number of barrels. The true amount in the crib would be 1,285.7 bushels, or 642.85 shelled corn, or 128.57 barrels, provided there are no projecting timbers inside to allow for; but the posts, rails and braces of the fram-

ing are generally inside of the lathing or weatherboarding. The rule above gives an allowance of a foot in about 224 $\frac{1}{2}$  for timber, &c. Corn in the crib will pack some, but it will shatter also, which, with loss by rats and mice, will make up for the packing. **W. C. H. Pomona, Md.**

#### Expense of Raising Corn.

**MESSRS. EDS.**—As farming is generally carried on more scientifically in the northern states than in the middle and southern, I shall be pleased if you will inform me in THE CULTIVATOR, how many acres of the "staff of life," or Indian corn, are generally cultivated to the person, by the best farmers in the former. **S. W. MACGOWAN.** *Rutherford Co., Tenn.*

The labor of raising corn at the north by good farmers, varies from 12 to 15 days per acre. The amount of labor depends greatly on the condition of the land and quantity of manure applied. If the land is clear of the seeds of weeds, so that no hoeing by hand is required, and the cultivation is wholly performed by a horse often repeated, the expense will be greatly lessened, and the crop increased. A good coating of manure and its application, which should always precede every crop intended to be a heavy and paying one, will cost from twelve to twenty dollars, and sometimes more; but this application will be of more value to succeeding than to the present crop, if the soil is retentive, and not gravelly and porous.

The following may be regarded as about the average, for good farming:—

Manuring 1 acre of land, -	\$15.00	4 days labor, with team	
Harrowing the manure before plowing,.....	1.00	$\frac{1}{2}$ do.	do.
Plowing,.....	2.00	1 do.	do.
Planting with drill,.....	37	$\frac{1}{4}$ do.	do.
Cultivating with horse five times,.....	2.50	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ do.	do.
Cutting up and stooking, -	3.00	3 do.	
Husking, .....	4.00	4 do.	

\$26.87 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  days.

If no manure is applied, the expense would be lessened \$15 and four days, and one day husking. As an average, it would require 12 days labor to cultivate an acre, besides horse-work; or one hand would take charge of about 11 acres in the 130 working days (omitting rains, storms, &c.) from the commencement to the close of the corn season, if he could have help in cutting up and husking, in exchange for labor he might perform in the hay and harvest field, when the corn needed no attention.

#### atal Disease among Cattle.

**MESSRS. TUCKER & SON**—We have a disease among our cattle, that we have never known anything about before. I saw one opened. The "smelt" was enlarged. I should say it was as large as twenty natural ones, and almost like clotted blood. Some of the small intestines were mortified for six or eight inches in length in a place. I am told all are about the same. My nearest neighbor lost ten cattle, one year old past, in a week; some of them lived two and three days after they appeared sick; but since he has lost a pair of oxen; one was found dead in the morning; the other one came up with the cows at night well; next morning at nine o'clock dead. Another neighbor has lost cows, well at one milking time and dead at the next. He lost an ox yesterday, that was well in the morning, chewing his cud, but dead before night. **D. B. RICHARDS.** *Putnam Co., N. Y., Dec. 2, 1857.*

### The Potato Disease.

In the Dec. No. of THE CULTIVATOR, we published an article from J. C. CLEVELAND, on the Use of Salt in Potato Culture. From a reply to this article, by Prof. S. W. JOHNSON of Yale Analytical Laboratory, published in the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN of Dec. 10, we make the following extract, which will be read with interest:—

Without going into a discussion of the potato disease, it may be stated that it has been satisfactorily proved that not an insect, nor a fungus, not the want of any fertilizer or soil-ingredient, is the cause of the rot, but that the weather, i. e., atmospheric changes, lie at the bottom of the difficulty. So much is proved, or at any rate, is supported by such an amount of well-weighed evidence, that we must accept it as proved for the present.

Besides the weather as the exciting cause, it is often assumed that a predisposing cause exists in the plant itself, viz., a constitutional weakness induced by bad culture; but this is still an assumption at least in the form in which it is almost invariably set forth.

1. It is a fact, as far as I can learn, that there is no variety of potato that has been subjected to field culture for several years, which has not been more or less affected by the disease, and there is no variety that has not been grown without being attacked by it. It is also a fact, 2, that the same variety is unequally affected in localities but a few miles distant from each other. It is true, 3, that in some localities and seasons early potatoes, or those early planted, are more affected than late ones; and again, elsewhere or in other years the early potatoes escape while the late ones suffer. Generally, as far as the facts in my knowledge warrant a conclusion, *very* early or *very* late potatoes are unaffected while those whose period of ripening falls about the middle of August or the first of September are most liable to attack.

Now the first fact shows that there is no potato possessed of such strength of constitution as to be able always to resist the disease, but that the rot falls indiscriminately upon all kinds, although it rarely destroys or affects *all* the tubers of any kind.

The second fact admits of explanation if we remember how locality affects the weather, particularly summer weather.

I know a region where beautiful farms lie on natural terraces that form the great steps up the side of a long hill-range, at the base of which runs a wide river. At a certain point, the first terrace is a wide alluvial flat of soil, vying with the richest western bottom-land in beauty and productiveness, and so nearly on a level with the river that it is often overflowed. Here, years ago, I have helped gather the superb crops of huge healthy potatoes. Now they are never planted there, for the crop can't be depended upon. A mile back from the river comes the second terrace, 30—50 feet higher. The soil is poorer though still good, and of the same general character. On this terrace last summer, the potato disease began its ravages about the 20th of August, while two miles back on the next terrace, they were still unaffected. Here the potatoes were of the same kinds, were planted about the same time in a soil of nearly uniform character. None of them had any salt, and yet why these differences—could the weather vary at points so near to each other? I am of opinion

that the whole trouble was in the weather, i. e., in the state of the atmosphere. The blight appears to attack the potato tops, when the sun rises into a clear sky and shines down with its fullest force upon fields covered with fog, or which are in an atmosphere saturated with moisture. Of those terraces that have been mentioned, the lower ones are often covered with heavy hanging fogs, while the higher ones are surrounded by a clear breezy air. In the lower terraces, the circulation of the juices of the plants, which depends greatly upon evaporation, is checked, and the juices putrify instead of being elaborated; while on the hillsides the processes of vegetation pursue more nearly their normal course.

The 3d fact would almost warrant the assumption, which is sustained by many analogies in vegetable physiology, that there is a period in the development of the potato, when more than at any other it is subject to the blight. This period is most naturally sought for at the time when the plant is undergoing the most rapid vegetative changes, viz., at or about the time of flowering.

If this be true, we can understand that those potatoes, of whatever variety, which arrive at the critical period of growth, at such times and in such localities as are visited by the atmospheric conditions that have been mentioned, would be struck with blight, while other potatoes which have passed or not reached the critical period of growth, would escape. We can further understand that salt when applied in contact with the seed potato, may, by virtue of its hindering the development of the germs, have the effect to keep the plants backward until the bad weather has passed, and thus save them. It may also retard the growth of very early varieties, so as to bring them into unfavorable weather at the time when they are most susceptible to atmospheric disturbances, and thus destroy a crop that otherwise would have been good.

The fact that salt ascends from the sea in the spray, and is thus distributed in enormous quantities on the land contiguous to lee-shores, and this without at all hindering there the ravages of the potato disease, is a strong fact against Mr. C.'s conclusion, that salt will prevent if not cure the disease entirely at no distant day.

Mr. C. says that "from all quarters reports come to us, too numerous to detail, in favor of the use of salt this season, for growing potatoes upon a dry or sandy soil." Will Mr. C. have the goodness to inform us the source of these reports, or where they can be found? So important facts ought to be detailed until they are well established.

In "axiom" 12 occurs the following sentence:—"Plant the genuine old-fashioned Blues from which to obtain balls to renew and improve the seed." In axiom 28 it is said—"The white varieties rot the worst, because they are the class that have been subject for the longest period to bad cultivation."

Here we have the view which seems to have originated with PARMENTIER, who introduced the potato into France, and has been so loudly advocated by writers on this subject, viz., that the potato has deteriorated by long or bad cultivation, i. e., reproduction from the tuber, and can only be reclaimed by raising new plants from the seed.

Why, let me ask, does a plant deteriorate if it be not raised from the seed? Is not reproduction by bud,



whether detached, as in the tiger lily, or contained in tubers, as in very numerous plants, just as natural and successful a way as any other? Is there not a fault in the Divine plan and management of vegetation, if a system of reproduction is established which contains in itself the elements of subverting whole races of plants?

Besides, if we admit that the potato is deteriorated, can we hope to renew it by raising plants from the seed? Does like cease to produce like under these circumstances? Can the seeds of a potato, the constitution of which has been broken down, yield us healthy plants? Of course not! is the answer of common sense, and the complete failure of all the numerous attempts that have been made, both at home and abroad, to regenerate the potato by seedlings, are sufficient support for this verdict.

If the potato has degenerated by bad culture, it must be regenerated by good culture. But what is bad—what is good culture?

While I am unconverted by Mr. C.'s article to a belief in the supreme efficacy of salt, either as a *fertilizer* or *vitalizer*, and do not recognize in the rule to bury strong manures below the seed, a law of agriculture, and find no support for the idea that seedlings are to regenerate the potato plant—not meeting with facts sufficient to prove these positions, or that cannot be otherwise explained—I agree with him most fully in advocating the advantages of thorough-draining, and hope he and all practical thinking farmers will give freely to the public, their facts and views, their criticisms too, so that the TRUTH may be attained. *Yale Analytical Laboratory, Nov., 1857.*

#### How to Staunch Bleeding in Wounds, &c.

Farmers and rural residents of all kinds would find it of advantage to be provided with some book containing directions as to the best modes of management in cases of accidents, (as wounds, poison-swallowing, &c.) and other emergencies. Before medical aid could be procured from the distant city or village, the best season for remedial applications would usually have transpired. Losses and sufferings of various kinds might, in such cases, be prevented, by having at hand a good book of reference of the above-named description.

A very common defect in many of the directions which have been prepared for the use of persons remote from medical and surgical aid, in cases of accidents and similar emergencies, consists in prescribing the use of articles which are not kept in every family, and which are not easily obtainable. The articles to be used should be such as are usually to be found in every house, or such as may be obtained without sending to a village, or even to a neighbor who may be provident enough to keep a supply of materials useful in domestic medicine and surgery.

As an instance illustrative and confirmatory of this common defect, let any one examine such directions as he may have access to, for the staunching of bleeding in cuts, wounds, and other injuries. He will be likely to find mention made of a great many articles which are not to be found in one house in a hundred, such as blue vitriol, alum alcohol, tannin, kino, catechu, and tinctures and balsams of various kinds. Perhaps not one of these could be found short of sending to a store, in nine cases out of ten, or in ninety-nine out of a hun-

dred. Even agaric or puff-ball, which we found named along with the above, is not always at hand, and might be searched for in the woods quite a while without being found. It seems surprising that any one writing directions for the staunching of bleeding should not think of the indispensableness, in most cases, of having the article prescribed such a one as might be found in almost every house. A very little knowledge of chemistry would suffice to have suggested to any writer of directions on this subject, the employment of two articles which may be found in every house, green tea powdered, and leather scraped or rasped. Next after applying a ligature or compression, where such means are applicable, there are few articles which would be more effectual than one or other of these, reduced to as fine a powder as possible, and bound down upon the mouths of the bleeding vessels, or applied closely in any other way. The virtue of both consists in their containing tannin. But their principal recommendation is that they are always at hand, as old shoes and green tea may be found in every house. When leather is used, the scrapings should be from the inner surface.

#### Big Head in Horses.

E. M. Griffin, Iowa, is informed that from his description, his colt has undoubtedly got the Big Head,—a disease, I believe, peculiar to the west—caused, we all think, by feeding on dry hard corn, and in some cases over-heating in addition. It was very prevalent in this neighborhood some thirty years ago, and young horses that received extra feeding with corn, and we had then little else to feed with, were most subject to it. It consists, as Mr. G. describes, of a hard callous swelling on the upper and lower jaw bones outside the grinders—in a short time causes stiffness in the limbs, inability to rise without help, and, if not checked, is *always fatal*.

Some years ago I examined the jaw bones of a horse that had died of the disease, and found the excrescences quite as solid and hard as the bones. Mason, in his excellent work, is the only writer on farriery (and I have consulted some half dozen,) who mentions the disease. The cure is arsenic, inserted in fine paper on the swelling. This I have seen tried; it is efficient and safe, but severe, and causes ugly scars. One of my sons has in this place a horse under treatment for it now—is using a decoction of roots of rattle-weed or carpenter's square, found growing in old fence rows—one peck of the roots boiled down with three or four pounds of old bacon, for 8 or 10 hours, strained and rubbed well into the affected parts; and driven in with a hot iron every day for a week; then every other day for a fortnight, which, though troublesome, is, I believe, an effectual cure. Some use puncturing with an awl in several places, and rubbing corrosive sublimate. It is an ugly disease, and a horse scarred with it loses more than half his value, and is seldom active after it. *SYDNEY SPRING. White Co., Ill.*

P. S. Severe blistering for the Big Head is no use. I have tried it.

THE N. Y. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY is down for a bequest of \$10,000, in the will of the late SETH GROSVENOR, Esq.

Look on the bright side of everything.

### Chester County Barn.

MESSERS. EDITORS—Will you inform me through the Country Gentleman of the most convenient and economical plan for building a barn, sufficient to stable forty cows, with manure room below and fodder above, sufficient for one winter. Would it be advisable to have the stable in the basement or on the floor above? Would a side-hill location be preferable to a level one? L. S. Fredonia, N. Y.

The plan coming nearest to the wishes of our correspondent, that we can now furnish him, is that of the "Chester County Barn," described in the Rural Register for 1858, and which we copy below. It contains the stables in the basement, which on the whole we prefer. If any of our readers have successfully practiced the mode of placing the cattle over the manure cellar, we should esteem it a favor if they would furnish us the details of the plan—or of any other design calculated to meet the wishes of our correspondent.

#### CHESTER COUNTY BARN.

A correspondent in Chester County, Pa., gives the following minute description of a large and commodious grain, hay, and stock barn, which combines many important advantages:

Such a barn will require a locality inclining towards the south. Let the main barn, facing southerly, be 60 feet long and 40 wide, with a lean-to overshot extending in front 20 feet. I estimate this to contain near 100 tons of hay, &c.; then let hay-houses extend 20 feet in width and height, in the form of a letter L, from the west end of the barn, of such length as to afford the additional storage necessary—say forty feet each.

The ground floor of the main barn to be divided into stabling is represented in Fig. 1. A, horse stables, 12 feet in depth, with mangers  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide for hay, and small troughs at the side of each stall for grain. B, cattle stalls, hung with swinging gates, opening sideways. C, the same, but each having a separate gate entering direct from the yard. E, main entry 8 feet wide, to hold feed chests, &c.; e, entry 5 feet wide, with steps up to door, D, at the north end, and having an entrance into the horse stables at each end, the entries to be laid with small stones and mortar; the remaining space under the barn and overshot to be open to the yard, and furnished with box cribs, so that the out-door stock can have their fodder placed under the shelter in stormy weather; in cleaning out stables, the manure may also be placed under here for protection from the weather.

If additional stall room is desired, the 20 foot hay houses might be divided by a five foot entry on the out side, and stalls opening to the yard, as C; or the under story might be open to the yard, as additional shelter to stock and manure.

Fig. 2 gives the elevation of the west end of the main barn, 40 feet, overshot 20—the former having in front the large doors, 16 feet, and bridge wall; height to the square 30 feet—to the second floor 8 feet; this cov-

ers a granary extending through the center, 14 feet wide, boarded at the sides, and the hay bins each side of it, 20 by 60 feet. It is lighted by two windows in front, and has a door and window at the north end. It is partitioned on one side into bins for grain; the front end included in the overshot will make a good workshop. The third or threshing floor, eight feet higher, extends 14 feet in width, (same as granary, which it covers,) from the bridge-wall to the front of overshot, and is lighted by a small dormer in front of overshot—(this may be scaffolded over head after the side mows are filled for grain,) the large doors at the north end opening into a dormer covering the space between the bridge-wall and barn. Each of the main hay mows should have a funnel four feet square, to pass hay to the entries below, and each of the overshot mows one to the yard. Grain from the threshing floor is passed into bins in the granary through three-inch square holes, stopped with wedge-shaped plugs.

And now, as to the advantages of this plan, which I believe are greater than that embraced by any other that has come under my observation. Roofing is one of the most expensive parts of building—here is the greatest amount of storage, stabling and other accom-

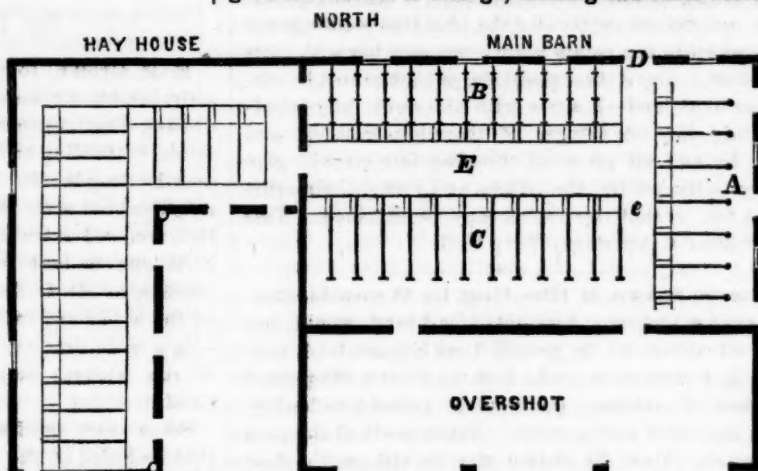


Fig. 1—PLAN OF STABLES IN BASEMENT.

modation under the same surface; the hay not descending to the ground floor, is less liable to be affected by damp, and affords a much less harbor for rats and other vermin. In the hurried season of harvest, produce can be disposed of in the deep bays, in one-fourth of the time required to pitch it upwards, and in winter can be dropped immediately where wanted below—while the stables can all be shut tight in cold weather, to keep them warm. The hay funnels act as ventila-

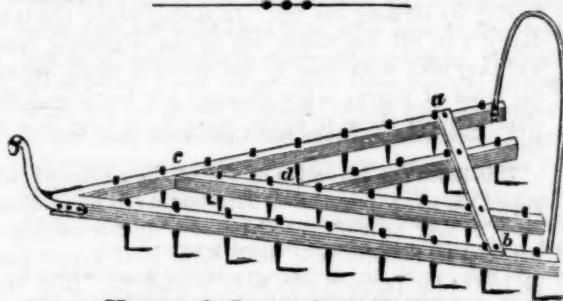


Fig. 2.—END VIEW FROM WEST, BEFORE HAY-BINS WERE ADDED.

tors to carry off the impure air; grain, when threshed, is put away in the granary without any labor of bagging and carrying; the horse stables are entered without passing through the cattle-yard, and the cattle stalls are as conveniently arranged as in other plans. The space under the bridgeway may readily be con-



verted into a carriage or wagon-house; hay-houses, as proposed, or sheds in their place, would afford comfortable protection from north and west winds. I suppose the main barn to be built of stone at least as high as the third floor, except in front; the overshot may be of frame, on pillars level with the granary floor, or its ends may be a continuation of the barn walls. The above general plan, varied in size and details, receives the general sanction of the practical farmers of Chester county.



New and Convenient Harrow.

EDITORS OF CO. GENT.—Good plows are conceded to be indispensable in farming operations—a bad one no good farmer can afford to use. Next in importance to a good plow, in putting the soil in a fine tilth, is a good Harrow. We have one, in rather general use here, which is considered much better than the common triangular harrow, less expensive than the “Geddes,” and another kind, if I recollect right, described in some of the back volumes of “THE CULTIVATOR,” and moreover allowing the use of a *bow*, without which such implements are rather awkward to walk after. I will give you a rough draft\* and description, from which you can perhaps form an idea. The frame should be made of good white oak—3 by 3 will be heavy enough, as it is easy to add a little weight when the ground requires it. The cross piece, (a b) 3 by 1½ inches, need not be let into the frame, but should be secured in its place by four screw bolts; morticed tennons are at the points c and d. About 24 teeth are sufficient, and the two upper ones, as shown in the figure, should be inserted low enough down to have a space of about one foot between them, that there may be no clogging with large corn stubs—(you don’t have them large in the North, I believe.) At the point of the harrow, a strong iron should be well secured and curved, so as to elevate the point some 9 or 10 inches above, and a ring inserted. This will give a level draught, and will not require the traces to be much longer than for plowing. An iron bow is preferred by some as more durable. Wood is preferable on some accounts, and if used, sockets should be inserted a few inches from the ends of the harrow, and secured there with small bolts, allowing them a little play. There should also be holes drilled through the upper end of the sockets, so as to admit of small rivets to pass through them and the ends of the bow, which will hold it firmly to its place. As there are no teeth inserted in the cross-piece, this harrow is not liable to clog, and the teeth can be so arranged that they will not run after each other.

There are many farmers who use this kind of harrow, and no other, for harrowing corn, and where the rows are wide enough to admit it, no better need be used. In that case, a few of the central teeth are drawn, and the horses walk astride of the row. Length of harrow, 8 feet; width, 6 feet. C. Salem Co., N.J.

\* We have made the annexed drawing from this rough sketch, as nearly as we could understand it. Eds.

### Draining by a Practical Man.

MESSRS. EDITORS—Let me give you my method of draining for the last three years, and in that time I have laid, and caused to be laid, 12,000 rods of drain, at a cost from 18½ to 50 cents per rod, and to my knowledge never had a failure. It costs a little more to dig a drain on my plan than with the aid of a ditch-digger or plow, but when it is done it is well done. Deny it who can? It is a drain, and will remain a drain as long as its outlet is kept open.

I commence in this way: If I have a large job, and have to have it done by a certain time, I employ men enough men enough to do it. I furnish each man with two spades, one shovel, a *crumber*, (which is a peculiar shaped hoe about one foot long, two and a half inches wide, and turned up an inch on each side,) and a *drag*, (which is simply a strong potato grub,) to fill in the drain with. I lay out each man a certain lot of drains to dig, with directions not to lay the tile in until I see it, if there is not much descent. Then each man commences on his own drain, with a spade about six inches wide and fourteen inches long, taking out a spit ten or eleven inches wide and fourteen inches deep, or according to the evenness of the surface; then with the shovel clean out the crumbs or loose earth; then go over the same again with the same spade, about one foot deep and six or seven inches wide at the bottom, and with the same spade clean out the bottom, (or a garden spade is better to clean out the bottom.) Now I am two feet deep in the shallowest place, six or seven inches wide, but that is too wide to lay in the tile, especially two-inch sole tile or even three-inch, and not deep enough; but this is a short branch drain and two inch tile is large enough. I want them put in so that they cannot get misplaced in any way; and I want them three feet deep, too; so into the muddy, wet drain I go—(one or two inches of mud and water in it—the descent is so small and the drain so wide it will not clear itself)—with my curious long narrow spade, flat on the back and rounding on the front, with a step on the socket to shove it down with, twelve or thirteen inches long, four inches wide at the top, and two and a half at the bottom; with this tool I take out the other foot, two and a half inches wide at the bottom and as even as a plank, and with the *crumber* before named, I clean out the crumbs and mud every six feet I dig, so that I have never to go in the bottom of the drain. Well, my drain is dug ten rods long, three feet deep in strong clay land, eleven inches wide at the top, two and a half at the bottom, and as straight as a line, and only five inches fall, *quite plenty*; and it is only four o’clock, so I have plenty of time to finish it before six, and I did not commence until seven in the morning; then I lay my tile along the side of the drain, and if possible commence at the upper end; lay in the tile downwards, walking straight along upon them to get them to the bottom, as they fit so tight; by the time I get them all laid in, it is fifteen minutes to five, and it would take the reader of this article the next hour and a quarter to raise out every other tile, but I can fill the drain up with ease in that time, so I complete my drain in ten hours—that is a rod in an hour—at thirty cents per rod, \$3 a day. Pretty large pay, but remember the broiling sun on my head, the mud and water in my boots and up my legs; it is pretty tough; but if you won’t give thirty cents per rod for such a piece, don’t be afraid; don’t let that stop you from draining; probably somebody will do it for less. With my seven men and myself, we can cure the wettest swamp out of doors, if there is a quarter of an inch descent to a rod and a good outlet, and we don’t mire nor stick fast. GEO. ALDERSON. Albany.

### Moveable Board Fence.

Within two or three years, some twenty or thirty patents have been granted for modifications of the moveable board fence, made in separate pannels and fastened or locked at both the ends. Being placed so as to form a zig-zag line like the common "worm fence," their weight keeps them in their position. The various patents granted, are for different modes of attaching or locking them together at the corners. Yet nearly all have one prominent defect, namely, liability to be overthrown by strong winds. In sheltered valleys, the danger is small or nothing; but on more exposed lands, these fences are sometimes overturned throughout their whole length, when their zig-zag structure, lying on their sides, makes them appear very much like a row of hen-coops. To prevent this disaster, stakes are sometimes driven obliquely across the bottom board, and in a sloping direction into the ground, but these stakes are inconvenient and destroy the neat appearance of the structure.

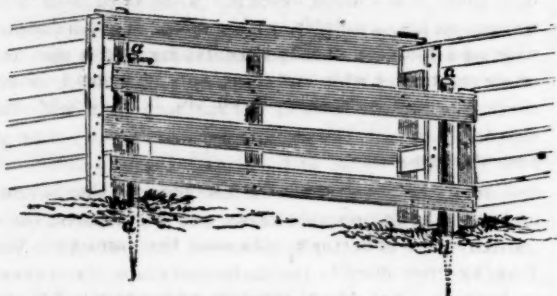


Fig. 1.

The old hurdle fence was a valuable contrivance, but was manufactured at considerable cost, as the ends of each panel had to be furnished with a stout stake, which must be inserted into as many holes in the earth made with a crowbar, and the ends be bound firmly together. The moveable fences, recently patented, resting with their own weight by their zig-zag position, obviate this labor, but are less secure against wind and occupy a wider strip of land.



Fig. 2.

The writer has endeavored to combine some of the advantages of these two kinds of fence, so far as is practicable, in one made not wholly straight, but occupying less land than the others, and with a single short stake at each corner, locked in and held to its place by the mere contact of the ends.

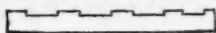


Fig. 3.

The above figures are a representation of this contrivance—fig. 1 being a view of the whole, and fig. 2 a plan or view from above. (The pannels are represented shorter in the cut than they are actually made.) In both figures, *a a* is the stake driven into the ground, and our readers will probably find no difficulty in understanding from the figures how these stakes are held firmly in their place as the pannels are successively locked together, by means of the cross battens at the ends. An advantage which this fence possesses, is that the angles at the corners may be made more or less acute by altering the distance between these battens when the pannels are made. If for instance, it is de-

sired to have the fence nearly straight, the battens are placed further apart; if the fence is to be more zig-zag, they must be nearer together. The stakes are entirely separate, and need not be more than four or five feet long. The depth to which they are driven into the ground, depends on the degree of exposure to winds. The holes are quickly made with a crowbar successively for each corner, as the fence is put up; and as the stakes are separate from the rest of the fence, they may at any time be driven in with great facility by striking the top. In strong winds, the tendency is to lift the stakes out on the windward side, and they may work loose by the action of winds during the lapse of years; a few minutes are however sufficient to drive them in again, even for a long line of fence.

This fence (an invention of one of the editors of this paper,) is not patented. Where lumber is of medium price, it may be made for about seventy-five cents per rod, and its manufacture would form good winter employment for farmers who have workshops. Both the boards and battens may be made of inch pine or hemlock fencing, and good cut-nails, well annealed by heating to redness, will answer the purpose of clinching. In order to place the boards for nailing, expeditiously together, and in exact position, a frame is made lying flat upon the ground, with a space cut out for the reception of each board, a portion of which is shown in Fig. 3.

### Kentucky Blue Grass.

EDITORS *CO. GENT.*—In an article in the *Ohio Cultivator*, copied from the paper of *SANFORD HOWARD*, on Grasses and Herbage, I find, under the caption *Poa pratensis*, enumerated as one, the spear-grass, June grass, and Kentucky Blue-grass. This is certainly an error. Last winter I looked in vain in New-York and Michigan for the Kentucky Blue-grass; what is commonly called June-grass there is very much like it. But the June-grass has joints in the "culm" or main seed-bearing straw. In the culm of the Kentucky blue grass there are no joints. The straw is sheathed in the blades or leaves, but when they are stript off no joints are found; the culm ascends in a single shaft from the crown. I sent specimens of the June-grass and Kentucky Blue-grass to the *Ohio Farmer* in a letter, for scientific analysis, but they were too much injured for use. I now enclose you a specimen of Blue-grass. For further particulars I refer you to an article of mine in the *Ohio Farmer*, 1856. It may be that the northern June-grass is the "*Poa sylvestris*," or some near variety of the *Poa pratensis*. For the culm of the *sylvestris* is described as "nearly erect and compressed," which I think is applicable to the June-grass. The straw of the Blue-grass is "erect" and cylindrical. Will some of your scientific botanists look into it? An error here is a great loss to the agriculturist, as I regard the Kentucky Blue-grass much the most valuable wherever it will flourish. *CASSIUS M. CLAY. Nov. 15, 1857.*

The specimens had become much crushed and broken by the time they had reached Union Springs; but enough remained to show when examined under a microscope, along with other dried specimens, that they had all the specific character of the *Poa pratensis*. There were no indications of the peculiar "joint" in the seed-bearing straw or upper portion of the culm,



mentioned by our correspondent. May not the Kentucky Blue-grass be a distinct, permanent, and more luxuriant variety of the species known as *Poa pratensis*—or is it the same variety only temporarily modified by more favorable soil and climate? If our esteemed correspondent will send full length specimens (from root upwards,) to our associate at Union Springs, it will enable him to look more thoroughly into the matter.

*Poa sylvestris* is a variety of the *Poa compressa*, (which species is also called "Blue-grass, at the east,) with a looser panicle and more erect culm, and with the spikelets fewer flowered, than the common *Poa compressa*.

#### Plants for Ornamental Hedges.

EDITORS OF COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—Can you advise, through the columns of your paper, as to the best kind of hedge for this part of the country—the best manner of planting or setting—whether seeds or slips, and cultivating it? and an opinion as to its durability. Any information regarding the cultivation of hedges, would have a general tendency to beautify lawns and fields in different parts of the country, and be gratefully received. J. H. C. Valley Falls, R. I.

The best plant for hedges, on the whole, so far as our experience and observation extends, is the Osage Orange. We have no doubt it would prove sufficiently hardy at Valley Falls, if on a dry bottom soil. If the soil is not naturally quite dry, it should be placed near or over the line of a tile drain. This will render it much safer from severe cold, than if subjected to wetness.

It is commenced by setting out one or two year old plants, six inches apart. These may be had of any principal nurseryman in western New-York for \$4 or \$5 per 1,000. They are always raised from seed. The young hedge must be well cultivated for several years, and cut back once or twice a year, according to the directions usually given for hedges, until 4 feet high.

This cutting may be done with a stiff scythe. Not one Osage Orange hedge in twenty succeeds, simply because it is expected to take care of itself after setting out. Constant culture and cutting are as essential as air and food to animals.

The *Buckthorn* is extremely hardy, but is of slower growth, and rarely becomes stout enough, unless on a very rich soil, and with high cultivation—and it always fails in the shade of larger trees. It is never thorny—the Osage is always filled with sharp thorns.

*Evergreens* make the handsomest hedges; and although less stout, yet by shutting out sight are usually quite safe. The Norway fir is the fastest grower—the Hemlock most beautiful, and the best of any for the shade of trees; the growth is however rather slow. It shears finely, and its interior is dense. The Norway fir also does well on these points.

CHINESE SUGAR CANE.—I have some molasses from the Chinese sugar cane, which I think equal to any that we buy, and think so favorably of it, that I intend to raise enough for my own supply next year. It is admired by all who have tasted it, and there will be a large quantity of it raised in this vicinity next year, and mills erected for its manufactory. From two hundred stalks, I had three quarts of thick heavy molasses, which is not as large a yield as some of my neighbors had, as mine was not as ripe as it should have been. F. DOOLITTLE.

#### Spider-Apple-Pie.

"O, they made an apple pie,  
And the crust was made of rye;  
You must eat it quick, or die  
On the barren strand."

—NOTHING TO EAT.

Pot-apple-pies, platter-apple-pies, pan-apple-pies, apple-puddings, apple-dumplings, and so on, are all very excellent dishes, when well made; but a good spider-apple-pie is superior to them all. A good one is far better than a roasted turkey, a baked goose, a stewed Shanghai, and a score of other dishes, which are called good. It is a most capital dinner for a farmer. Being very hearty, a hard-working farmer will labor on it, with a strong hand, and a cheerful heart, until the next meal time, without growing faint. It is like the best of medicine for a morose dyspeptic; for, after dining on such a dish, if despondency has been depicted on their visage for a month, a smile may be seen playing on their brow. What a pertinent, and spicy, and instructive leader an editor will write after such a dinner! Old bachelors, and old maids too, (no reflections on their happy hours of single blessedness,) after breakfasting on such a dish, if they are not really a "dead set," will, most assuredly, forget for the time their thirty-five and upwards; and be heard to shout, with as much animation as an old revolutioner ever sung Yankee Doodle,

"There's the tinker, the tailor, the boy that follows the plow,  
I must and will get married! The fit comes on me now."

How the children all like it; and it is infinitely more healthy for them, than pork and beef and such like. Let my wife dictate

How to MAKE IT.—It may be made plain and cheap, or very rich and costly, and always be good, if it be cooked just right.

Make a good dough of rye flour, or wheat flour, (Graham flour is the best,) and prepare it as for biscuit. Prepare the apples as for common pies, and after greasing the spider, place the apples in a heap in the spider. See that no apples touch the side of the spider. Roll out the crust as thick as your hand, and place it on the apples, pressing it down between the apples and the side of the spider. No under crust. Cut a hole in the top of the crust, and pour into the apples about half a tea-cupfull of water for a spider that will hold about three quarts, and a half tea-cup of molasses, and a piece of butter as large as a hen's egg. Cover it with a close lid, and cook with a moderate fire. Serve, when warm, with cream and sugar, with butter and sugar, with rich gravy, or with the extract of Sorghum, &c. And, when satisfied that

"Tis not for man's supremest good,  
To cram himself with loathsome food,"

take one platefull less. S. EDWARDS TODD. Lake Ridge, Tompkins Co., N. Y.

#### Sheltering Cabbages for Winter Use.

I would suggest a simple alteration in the plan recommended of sheltering and shading cabbage from freezing, for winter use. Namely, instead of making a flat surface with old rails or otherwise, and covering with litter—make a roof shaped surface by longer crotches opposite the middle of each end of the bed, and poles to fit, the middle pole being one and a half to two feet higher than the side poles. Then lay on any kind of wood of suitable size and length, and cover with bean haulm, or other coarse material—then with hay, and rake off smooth. By this means a roof that will throw off water is secured and the cabbage kept dry, and rain which would soak through a flat covering and be frozen into a coating of ice on the cabbage, effectually carried over the sides of the bed. In some seasons at least, this would be true. I have adopted this plan in sheltering our cabbage for winter use. J. W. C.

### Plan of a Small Farm-House.

MESSRS. EDITORS—Having observed that various correspondents have lately furnished to the Country Gentleman, plans of farm-houses, many of them very good, but involving a greater expenditure of capital than some young farmers, just setting out in life, would like to incur, I send the following plan and drawings of a small and cheap tenement, designed to comprise most of the chief essentials required in a building of that class, to be built of wood, and to cost a sum less than one thousand dollars.

The plan and drawings are made by a scale of 12 parts in an inch,\* and have been copied by your correspondent, on this reduced scale, from the drawings made and furnished by him for a house now under contract, to be built on a farm of three hundred acres, near the town of Easton, in Talbot Co., on the eastern shore of Maryland. The farm referred to has no dwelling upon it suitable for a comfortable residence, and the want of such a structure has always, hitherto, prevented the owner from securing a good and permanent tenant. As a friend and frequent visitor at the home-farm of the owner, your correspondent was requested to select a site, prepare plans and specifications, contract for building, and purchase materials for the house, the plan of which is herewith sent. All this has been done; and, hence, sufficient assurance may be received that this is not a mere fancy sketch, but the plan of a building now in process of construction.

The site for the house has been chosen with due regard to accessibility from the public road—to the central point of the estate—to the drainage—to the main farm road—to the barn—to water for family use—to the points of the compass and the prevailing winds—to the proper relative position of the necessary out-buildings and the garden, and lastly, though of comparatively minor importance, to secure a cheerful prospect from the windows of the Living Room.

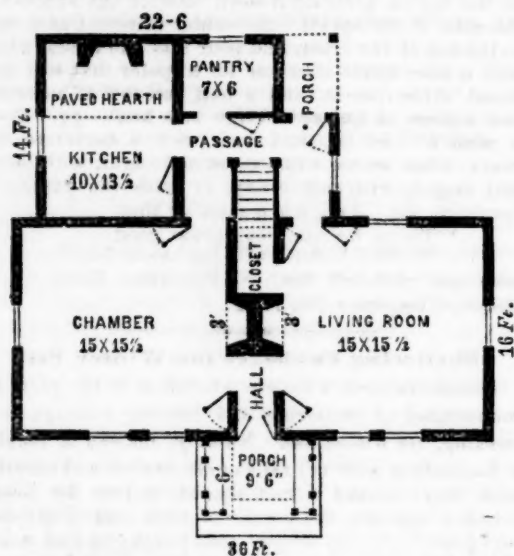


Fig. 1.

Fig. 1 represents the first floor.

The living room and the chamber upon this floor are accessible from the front and rear of the dwelling; and each room in the house can be used separately and independently, without the necessity of passing through

\*The engravings are reduced about one-third from the drawings of our correspondent.

any other. The living room is furnished with windows on three sides, and on the fourth is a very useful convenience, the china closet, which, as this is the dining and sitting room of the family, is almost indispensable. The store room adjoins the kitchen, and in the passage, whence the stairs give access to the second floor, is a window for light and for ventilation. The window, as well as the outer door near it, will be of great advantage when opened in summer, for the purpose of securing a cool draught through the kitchen. The little porch at the rear is so arranged as to act as a shield to the door at the end of the house, and prevent the rain from driving in, and to afford a shelter for various purposes. The porch at the front of the house is provided with a bench on each side, and the comfort of such an addition to every house in the country is too well known to need comment.

The kitchen chimney, it will be observed, is so placed as not to detract in summer from the coolness of the main dwelling. In the part of the country where this house is to be built, wood is still plentiful, and the fire-places on the first floor have been constructed for the use of that fuel. The kitchen fire-place is therefore much larger than would be necessary if the ordinary cooking stove were used; in which case, a simple flue will be abundantly sufficient. In this house, however, it is left optional with the tenant in what mode he will consume his fuel; for those who have never used cooking stoves, are not always willing to incur the expense of buying one. The hearth is made large to avoid risk from fire. The recesses in each side of the kitchen chimney are to contain shelves. The store-room will have four rows of shelves, each shelf 18 inches wide. The closet in the living room is also to be provided with shelves.

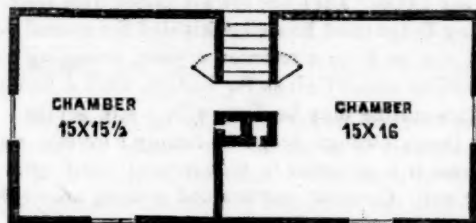


Fig. 2.

Fig. No. 2, representing the second floor, hardly requires any explanation. The two chambers on this floor are without fire-places, and are designed to be warmed by stoves, for which purpose the requisite openings will be left in the flues.

Fig. No. 3 shows a section of the whole building, from front to rear, including the cellar, which last it was at first intended, should be constructed underneath the living room. This intention, however, has since been abandoned from motives of economy, as no stone is to be had in that part of Maryland, and bricks are too expensive. This cellar should be added wherever stone can be procured at any reasonable rate. An arch is turned over the kitchen chimney to prevent smoking. Access to the cellar, it should be mentioned, was to be had by a cellar door, opening in two folds, underneath the window in the rear of the living-room.

Fig. No. 4 represents the front elevation. The front door opens in two folds. This front will face the public road, from which the dwelling will stand at the distance of several hundred yards.

The chimneys, hearths and underpinning, will be of brick. The exterior and interior finish will be quite



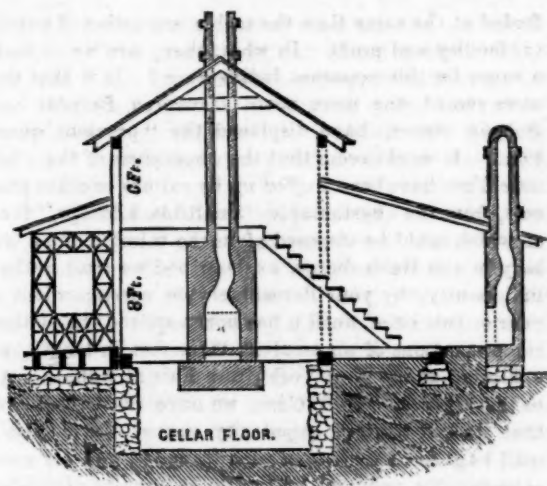


Fig. 3.

plain, and there will be no brackets. The cornices of the gables of the main building will be simple projections of the roof, two feet and six inches wide, with a plain barge board about four inches wide. The cornice of the kitchen will have a projection of eighteen inches.



Fig. 4.

All the floors of the house will be of yellow pine. It is unnecessary to go into further details, as the drawings themselves afford sufficient information if examined with the scale, and the cost of work and materials vary so much in different parts of the Union, that no safe guide could be found in the prices paid here. E. L. R. Baltimore, Md.

#### King Philip Corn.

A good fallow crop, — to precede wheat, — has long been a desideratum with farmers. To occupy the ground which otherwise would be a naked fallow, with something that will not injure the succeeding growth of wheat, and at the same time yield a valuable product, would be a positive profit. Hoed or cultivated crops, by destroying weeds and mellowing the surface, are better for this purpose than such as are sown broadcast; and hence, if other things are equal, corn and beans are better than oats, peas, and barley. A serious difficulty in the way of adopting corn as a fallow crop, is its *lateness*, preventing the early sowing of the wheat, while the weight of the stalks renders the task of clearing the land of them, one of no small magnitude.

There is one variety of corn, however, — the King Philip, — which to a considerable extent, obviates these objections. The past late spring, and subsequent short summer, has enabled us to give this variety a severe test for this purpose. Several acres were planted on

heavy inverted sod, without any manure, with Billings' planter, in rows about three and a half feet apart, and in "hills" twenty-two inches in the row. The soil being quite wet when plowed, a part became baked and hardened; but Billings' planter is an efficient one for pulverizing hard earth, and the whole field came up with scarcely the failure of a hill. We think this successful result was in part owing to the variety of corn planted, — which ripening so early, scarcely ever furnishes a poor or immature seed. The field was not hoed, but the stalks were mostly thinned to three in the hill. It was cultivated three times with a horse; but six times would have been much better.

In one hundred days, most of the ears were hardened, notwithstanding the extremely unfavorable season, and before the middle of 9 mo. (Sept.) the ripened ears projected from the dry and open husks. The crop from a portion of the field was cut up and drawn off, admitting the early sowing of wheat, the crop of which is now as green and promising as any from fallowed land. In favorable seasons, wheat might be sown after this corn by the first of autumn.

A portion of the field was measured, neither the heaviest nor the lightest part, but a fair medium, and the product was found to exceed sixty bushels per acre — which is well for an entirely unmanured field, with only ordinary cultivation, the whole being fully ripened.

The King Philip corn is rejected by some who have tried it, because they have not given it proper treatment. To obtain a full product, it requires to be planted much thicker than the larger varieties. It should be either in drills, or in close hills in one way, — not over two feet by three and a half. The smallness of its stalk admits closer planting; and this smallness also gives an unfavorable opinion of the real amount of the crop to those who have never measured the product.

#### Preparing Grounds for Orchards.

MESSRS. EDITORS—Which is the best time to set out an apple orchard of young trees — spring or fall? If in the spring, would it not be advisable to prepare the ground by plowing and harrowing, and to dig the holes before winter, in order that the frost might pulverize the ground? For grapevines, bones and oyster shells thrown about the roots are thought to be good — how would they answer for fruit trees? C. Salem Co., N. J.

For apple trees, it is a matter of little importance whether transplanting be done in autumn or early spring, provided the work is well done. Good *after culture* is far more essential. Autumn is much the best time to prepare the ground for the reason assigned, with the additional one that any enricher applied in autumn becomes well reduced and diffused through the soil by the time of spring operations.

Bones, oyster shells, and other special manures, are not so *uniformly* beneficial as yard manure, but sometimes they succeed admirably, being just the thing needed under some peculiar condition of the soil. Where they prove decidedly beneficial to grapes, they would no doubt be useful to apple trees.

FIRE IN THE CHIMNEY.—In cases of fire in the chimney, it is an excellent plan to put salt on the fire in the grate below, as it acts chemically on the flaming soot above. This has been found to extinguish the fire in a short time, and deserves to be more generally known.



**The Torenia Asiatica.**

A new and rare green-house plant, the *Torenia asiatica*, is shown in the above cut. It is a native of the East Indies, and needs the shade, moisture, and protection of a house, and will not succeed well out of doors. It is remarkable for the softness and richness of the color of its beautiful blue and purple flowers. A single plant, trained in a *suspended* pot or sieve, in a Camellia house belonging to J. Dundas of Philadelphia, grew in one summer, with the side branches hanging down around it, so as to measure ten feet in diameter, presenting in all parts a perfect mass of flowers and foliage.

• • •

**The Osier or Basket Willow.**

It is now six years since the attention of the public was directed to the culture of the Osier or Basket Willow in this country, by an article on that subject in the Report of the Patent Office. The communication was copied from Hunt's Merchants' Magazine, and represented the cultivation of this willow as being adapted to the soil and climate of the United States—its management being as easily acquired, the demand as greater than the supply, and highly profitable to the cultivator. Although this article was notoriously incorrect, having exaggerated greatly the quantity imported and consumed in this country, nevertheless its appearance in a mercantile publication of respectability, and its endorsement by an official report of the government, gave to it the weight and authority that attaches to genuineness and reliability. To the veritable American, conviction is tantamount to action, and Crockett like, "when he is sure he is right he will go ahead." The only mystery in this case is the oblivious slumber into which the subject appears for so long a time to have fallen. What cause can be assigned for this profound silence, this persistent sleep? Where is the spirit of Yankeeedom? Certainly we are not to entertain the unnatural supposition, that a people so famous as ours for "reckless speculation," so celebrated for a mad pursuit of the "Almighty dollar," would be likely to overlook the advantages of an enterprise that af-

forded at the same time the treble attraction of novelty, facility and profit. In what, then, are we to seek a cause for this apparent indifference? Is it that the more recent, the more novel *Dioscorea Batatas* and *Sorgho Sucre*, have displaced the "previous question." It would seem that the dimensions of the *Chinese Yam* have been *puffed up* by culture or other process, from the questionable "small black lumps," four of which could be disposed of in the thimble of an old lady in the Helderbergs, as described we trust rather indignantly, by your Rensselaerville correspondent a year or two since, until it has now acquired the plethoric proportions of an esculent three feet in length, as exhibited at the New-York State Fair at Buffalo. As to the *Chinese Sugar Cane*, we have reason to know that its last winter's popularity caused Uncle Sam's mail bags to be *distended* with its seeds, and *per consequence*, the venders' pockets to be equally *distended* with the proceeds. Even while we write, its saccharine qualities are tested by the glutinous digits of half our acquaintance, not to speak of its dulcet virtues, visible on the lips of the other half.

Perhaps another reason for not engaging in a culture that requires a few years for perfect development, and full returns to be made, may be sought in the prevalence of a spirit that can form no application of a *prospective* benefit—the same spirit that induces some to neglect the propagation of fruit trees, and ornamental plantations, from the selfish apprehension that they may never pluck the fruit, or enjoy the shade. The posterity of such persons suffer a virtual disinheritance from the short-sighted egotism of their parents.

Possibly some are wishing to prevent an agitation of the subject, fearing an excitement in that direction would operate to effect an over-production, thereby surcharging the market, and cause a depression in ruling prices. What motives soever may influence others in withholding their experience from the uninitiated, the writer of this will detail his amateur experiments, and hopes he may be the means of calling out others, if there be any, to do the same. Of the Patent Office Report for 1853, containing the article on willow alluded to, there were ordered to be printed for distribution, by Congress, 100,000 extra copies. Supposing nine-tenths of these to fall into the hands of political partizans who had no interest in reading them, it would leave 10,000 copies to be read, and of the readers, perhaps one in every ten might conclude to try at least one acre, which would make one thousand acres planted of the osier. The above is the only basis on which we could make an approximate estimate, however far from the truth it may prove.

Early in the spring of 1854, I addressed different gentlemen, strangers to me, soliciting information concerning the willow or osier. These persons politely responded, and one of them had *cuttings* of the *Salix Viminalis*, which he would furnish me at \$15 per thousand, if ordered immediately. Another statement represented the *Salix Viminalis* as nearly worthless in this climate, though chiefly depended on in England for osiers.

I was eventually fortunate enough to communicate with Dr. C. W. GRANT of Newburgh, N. Y., a gentleman whose courtesy and integrity I am happy on this occasion to commend. From him I learned, that after being disappointed in the *S. Viminalis*, as many Europeans had been before, and not willing to succumb



as they had to the first attempt, he had imported all the species he could hear of from Europe, amounting to nearly a hundred kinds, and tested them, of which he had found the *Salix purpurea*, *S. triandria*, and *S. Forbiana*, especially adapted to the hot sun and dry summers of our climate, and more recently had discovered another sort that promised to excel them all in some respects.

I obtained of him cuttings of the *Purpurea* and *Triandria*, and of the last mentioned species, which, as it came to me without a name, I propose, *illo volente*, to call *Salix Grantiana*, as Dr. Grant appears to have the credit of introducing it. In consequence of a flood, they were transferred from the express to the canals, and arrived the last of May, nearly four weeks later than was anticipated. My ground was upland, clayey loam, that had been cleared forty years, but never plowed till the year before, and now trenched the depth of the spade blade. The cuttings were inserted in the recently trenched soil, perpendicularly, leaving about two inches above ground, and in consideration of the late planting, and the unprecedented drought that followed, I considered myself fortunate that one-third even, barely survived the first season.

The next year, 1855, a frost in June froze the tops of the shoots, then 8 inches long, of all but the *purpurea*, proving this variety more hardy than the other two. I had not cut the small growth of the year previous, which caused a bushy and scraggy appearance to this year's increase. They answered however, for sets, and in 1856 I extended my original plantation very considerably, and although that was another exceedingly dry summer, not one in a hundred of those I planted failed. The present year has been very propitious, and my "willow holt" has assumed an exceedingly attractive aspect, exhibiting a dense growth from eight to ten feet in height. The *Purpurea* makes beautiful, lithe, slender rods, purplish, and of nearly a uniform thickness their whole length; as many as forty in a stool, eight to ten feet in height, without a single side branch. For every purpose this is undoubtedly the most desirable variety. The main shoots of the *Triandria* are eight or nine feet high, and throw out many side branches, and taper more than the former one. It has a great number of smaller shoots of great toughness. Its rods are yellow, and extremely flexible, answering well for baskets and small work. It would yield a large amount of Osier where the soil is sufficiently wet, as it is more thirsty for moisture than the other two. Its abundance of side branches seem to be an objection on account of peeling and splitting.

The third variety, which I choose to designate as *Grantiana*, is different in its foliage, resembling that of the apple, from all the willows I have seen. This is unquestionably a very desirable willow. Its growth is extremely rapid, affording in a short time a mass of straight, upright, smooth, deep-green rods, from seven to ten feet high, so dense as to hide a grenadier, withdrawn but two yards within them. A field of it but one year and a half planted, exhibits a highly beautiful and attractive view, with its uniform and even surface, and luxurious growth. As an osier it will answer well for split work, and would probably yield more and succeed on a greater diversity of soils, than any other. It is being tested as a hedge plant for the prairies, and I doubt not may succeed. Cultivated as a tree, it is a great acquisition. To the lover of this most beautiful

of all natural objects—a tree—its rapidity of growth, its upright and polished stem, its rounded and leafy head, its large, early and long remaining catkins, glittering in the sun in the spring, with all the colors of the rainbow, its erect and cleanly habit, render it an ornament not to be dispensed with, in group, or avenue, or lawn.

From what experience I have attained, I am convinced that with either of the above sorts of willow, can easily be produced two tons to the acre, and there would no longer seem to be any excuse for importing this article, unless it were to enrich the importer.

There is little extant published on the culture of the willow. What I have been able to find was in a printed letter of Charles Downing, Esq., a circular by Mr. Colby, Vt., an article by Dr. Grant in a Michigan periodical, and one in each the Country Gentleman and Horticulturist. O. D. P. Zelienople, Pa.

#### Improving Leaky Cellars.

MESSRS LUTHER TUCKER & SON—As many persons have doubtless cellars into which water finds its way, in inconvenient quantities, frequently causing much damage, trouble, and loss with vegetables intended for family use in the spring, I will here present a plan which, though it will not cure entirely, will, if carried out, so much modify such difficulties that no further trouble will attend them than carrying the water out of the cellar as it soaks into the place prepared for it. I have adopted this plan in my own cellar, and the result is a continually dry bottom therein. The plan consists of simply putting a drain around the sides of the cellar, nine inches or a foot below the surface, with leading drains with a slight fall to some point where it will be most convenient to carry the water out from—at which latter, sink a hole the size and depth of a barrel, and stone it—or put in an old flour barrel with a few small holes bored in through the bottom and sides—but stoning is best. The drains are made by putting two rows of small staves, of two to four inches thick and wide, along the sides of each, (staves of varying thickness should be correspondingly let down so as to leave a level top to each row,) leaving a water course the width of your hand between the rows—and covering with old inch or half inch boards—oak if you have them, about nine or ten inches wide. Then put a little hay slightly twisted along each side, put on the mold and tread, and the drain is complete. A large cellar may be drained in this way in *half a day*—and the water coming in, in spring, all brought into the small or barrel well, through the drains, and carried out as often as there is a painful accumulation, thus securing a dry bottom all over the cellar, by preventing the water raising withing nine inches or a foot of the surface thereof. Four or five barrowsfull of small stone properly put in, will drain a large cellar cheaply and effectively. WOODCOCK CLARK.

#### Remedy for Fleas.

MESSRS. EDITORS—J. E. W., in your paper of 17th September, asks for a remedy for fleas. Nothing, I believe, but the Frenchman's powder will kill them; but the following will keep them from his bed: Take five or six pieces of camphor of the size of a walnut; tie them up separately in pieces of cloth; take them to bed, placing them in different parts top and bottom, and I think he will sleep with less annoyance from the pests.

I learned the above remedy many years ago when in Paris, where fleas abound. A SUBSCRIBER. Jamaica Plains, Mass.

## The Poultry-Yard.

### The Dominique Fowl.

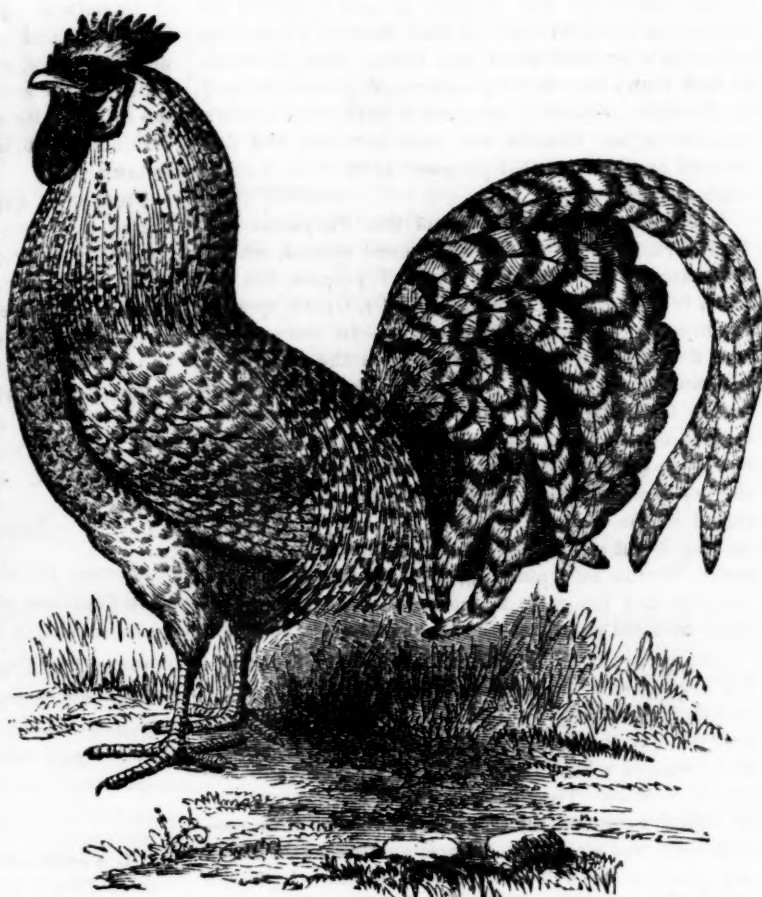
This common and well-known variety of our domestic fowl, there is good reason to believe, is old and distinct, though it is generally looked upon as a mere farm-yard fowl; that it is the accidental result of promiscuous crossing; but there are several forms among the farm yard fowls, so called, that are seen to be repeated generation after generation, the counterparts of which are to be met with, scattered here and there, over the whole country. They are a beautiful fowl, when well selected and carefully bred. They are distinguished as Dominique by their markings and their color, which is generally considered an indication of hardihood and fecundity. They are by some called "Hawk-colored fowls," from their strong resemblance in color to the birds of that name. In England they are usually called "Cuckoo fowls," from the fancied resemblance of their plumage to the feathers on the Cuckoo's breast.

We seldom see bad hens of this variety, and take them "all-in-all," we do not hesitate in pronouncing them one of the best and most profitable fowls; being hardy, good layers, careful nurses, and affording excellent eggs, and the quality of their flesh highly esteemed. The hens are not large, but plump and full breasted. The eggs average about two ounces each are white, and of porcelain whiteness.

The prevailing and true color of the Dominique fowl is a lightish ground, barred crosswise, and softly shaded with a slaty-blue, as indicated in the portrait of the cock figured at the head of this article. The comb is variable, some being single, while others are double—most however are single. The iris, bright orange; feet, legs, and bill, bright yellow; and some light flesh-color. We prefer the yellow legs and bill, and consider them well worthy of promotion in the poultry-yard. A flock of forty or fifty of these fowls, make a beautiful show, either in a yard or running at large. In a late visit to a gentleman's seat on Staten Island, we had the pleasure of seeing a yard of Dominique fowls, and we were delighted with their appearance, so healthy looking and so uniform in color and form. He assured us they had furnished him with abundance of the best of eggs during the year. C. N. BEMENT. *Springside, Nov., 1857.*

### Profits of Butter Making.

EDS. CO. GENT.—As your paper is open for results and profits, I send you the results of four cows, milked by me this summer. Calved from April 10th to 20th—were fed two quarts oat meal from first of April till turned out to grass, which was about the first of June. Their pasture through the summer was rather short—were fed a few pumpkins through the fall, and stabled



### THE DOMINIQUE FOWL.

all stormy nights, which must be done if you want milk from them in the winter.

No. 1, about one-fourth Devon, remainder native.

No. 2, native.

No. 3, half Durham, and half native.

No. 4, do. do. do. do.

Butter sold, 600 lbs., at 19½ c.	\$117.00
Used in family 200 lbs., at 19½ c.	39.00
Pork fatted on milk, 424 lbs., at 5½ c.	23.32
Four Calves, at \$5,	20.00

\$199.32

Keeping cows, at \$25,..... 100.00

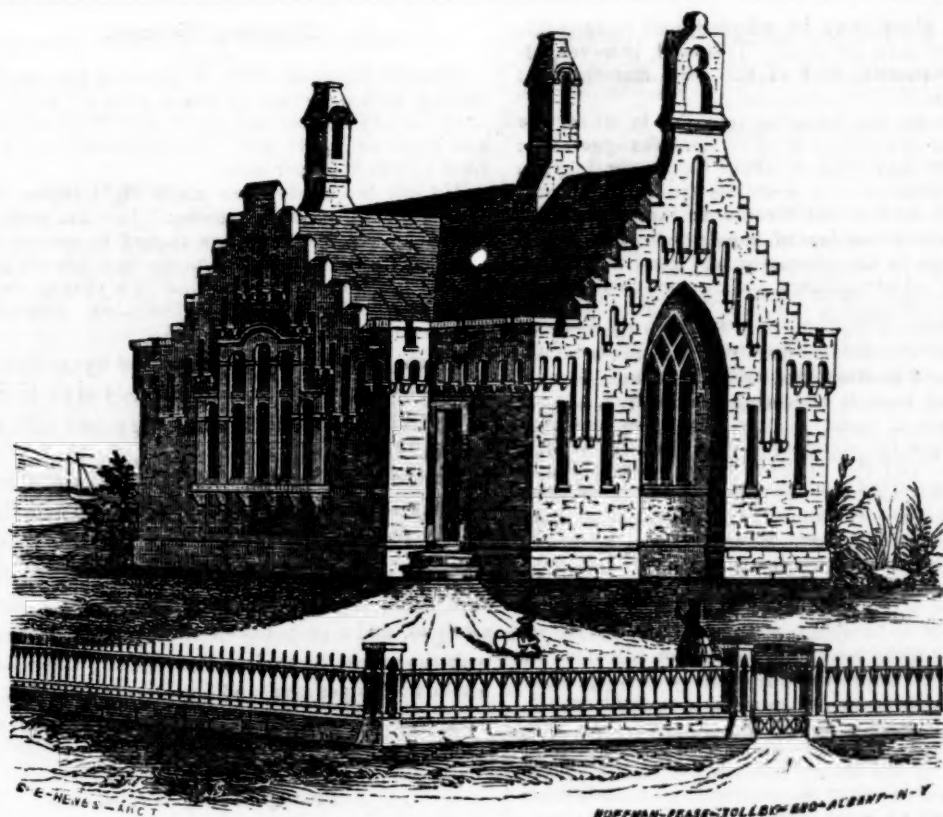
\$99.32

I calculated the cost of keeping the cows last year at \$100, which I think will pay the trouble pretty well, and give a good price for keeping.

I hope that persons giving their results, from cows or any other stock, will be more particular about giving the expenses, which will give readers a little better chance to judge for themselves of the profits. J. T. CURTIS. *Chenango Co., N. Y.*

GOOD LAMBS.—I send you the weight of three ewe lambs. I weighed on the third day of Nov. inst., three of my ewe lambs. They weighed as follows: 163 lbs., 142 lbs., 140 lbs.—the three weighing 445 lbs. These lambs were nearly seven months old when weighed; they were dropped in the month of April last. They are of the Leicester breed, got by my imported buck, and are pronounced by good judges that have seen them, to be the best lambs that they have ever seen of their age. I think one of them as good a lamb as there is in America. I will give \$50 for as good a one. EZRA RINGER *Lyons, N. Y.* [What was the 50 cents, contained in the letter with the above, for?]

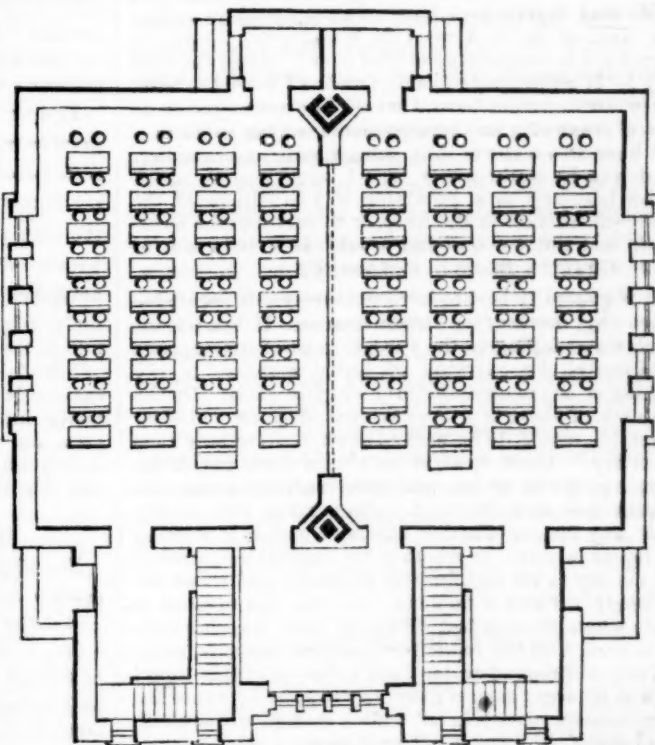




#### Improvements in School Architecture.

There is no point on which a greater mistake is made, by those having in charge the school affairs of districts the whole country over, than in neglecting to render school-buildings comfortable and attractive. We have seen district school-houses in the country,—where one would think there was no need of economy in land, and that the shade of the green trees was abundant enough to be had for the seeking—set down at the junction of two sandy roads, without even a bush in sight, and scarce a blade of grass,—a rickety shanty-like structure, placed so high on blocks that you could see the day-light under as well as above and on every side of it—in fact put up, one would infer, just where the winds would be surest to penetrate its crevices in winter, and the summer sun beat the fiercest on its unprotected sides, as well as made as ugly as possible throughout exterior and interior.

The Teacher\* has been publishing some good suggestions on the subject of School Architecture, accompanied by plans and designs. By the courtesy of Mr. CRUIKSHANK we are enabled to present above one of these designs from the November number. This house will seat 144 pupils. Scale, one-sixteenth of an inch to the foot. The dotted line in the center represents a sliding door, hung with weights and pulleys, and sliding upward to the top of the room. A partition in the attic separates the rooms, and receives



\* THE NEW-YORK TEACHER: A Monthly Periodical, devoted to the cause of General Education and to the Elevation of the Teacher's Profession. Albany: JAMES CRUIKSHANK, 55 State street.

this door as it slides up towards the point of the roof. The sliding door may be constructed so as to serve for a blackboard on each side. It may here be remarked, that for smaller plans, with a single room, the style of

seating here given may be adopted, and if desirable the elevation may be plain. It should, however, always be substantial, and of the best material and workmanship.

We also copy the following remarks, in which the importance of the subject is by no means exaggerated:

"Whatever may seem to argue to the contrary, in individual instances, it is doubtless true as a general thing, that a careless indifference on the part of any community, on the subject of popular education, finds its truest type in the character and condition of the school house. An intelligent and commendable zeal in the interests of popular culture, will show itself in practical efforts to improve and beautify the temples of instruction, and rear up fitting monuments to public intelligence and public taste. Nor this alone. It need not be argued, that, in educating the children, the silent influences of taste, beauty, loveliness, enstamp themselves upon the character—that like the sunlight and the dew, and the balmy air, they beautify and fertilize all that comes within the circle of their influence. Too much care cannot be exercised in making our school rooms pleasant, healthful, and beautiful. The open fields in the gladsome summer time, with their wealth of hill and dale, green shady groves and singing birds, waving grain and fragrant air, are too fair a paradise to be exchanged for the pandemonium of a wretched filthy hovel, on the barren hill side, by the dusty street, unprotected from the scorching sun or the winter blast, or on the margin of a fetid marsh, exhaling its deadly miasma. No wonder that free, joyous childhood, will not be despoiled of its birthright, to pine away in the dreary monotony of such a prison. If children are expected to make improvement in their studies, the school room where they spend their happiest years must be made attractive. A moment's consideration of this subject, in all its bearings of expense, utility, health, will suffice to show that it does not pay to neglect these important interests.

#### Covered Barn-Yards.

MESSRS. EDITORS—I have within a few days visited the farm of S. B. Atwood in Watertown, where his barn-yard is completely shedded over. Is this the best way? It hit my taste exactly, and as I intend to build a new underground barn, I would like your opinion, or that of some of your correspondents, on the subject.

I have also a clover mill, shingle mill, and thrasher, all driven by water-power, and I would inquire which is the best and most profitable way to dispose of the chaff—to let it rot in the heap, or to cart it to the barn-yard, and whether sawdust would be a help to it or not? CHARLES BLOSS. *Bethlem, Ct.*

It is generally best to have manure yards covered—depending, however, on circumstances. If there is too much water falling on the yard, it must of course prove detrimental, by carrying off liquid manure, to say nothing of the inconvenience of surplus water. On the contrary, if there is a large amount of straw and other vegetable matter to be worked down, a cover may keep it too dry. Again, a cover may be of little use, if the drippings of the eaves, and other surplus water, are permitted to flow the yard. Observation will readily show any farmer whether excessive water is wasting his liquid manure, or whether his vegetable materials are too dry to rot and ferment properly, and to act accordingly. There is no doubt that the best manure is made where there is just enough of solid material added to absorb all the liquid portions from animals, without any addition of water from rains—and this liquid portion is larger than is generally supposed; hence the more common error is in not adding enough straw, chaff, dried muck, &c., and in all such cases, a shed is beneficial.

The best way by far to use the chaff, is to use it as an absorbent for liquid manure, by carting it to the barn-yard, in a dry state.

#### Draining Swamps.

MESSRS. EDITORS—Will it probably pay to drain a swamp with a surface of muck from 12 to 18 inches deep—sandy subsoil, and pretty well filled with stumps and roots, and quite wet. The adjoining land is worth from \$75 to \$100 per acre.

My soil is a sandy loam about eight inches deep—subsoil yellow sand, not leachy. In what mode can I most speedily, (having due regard to economy,) by bringing up the subsoil and manuring, make a soil two feet deep. Can it be well done in a year or two, and with how much manure to the acre. SUBSCRIBER. *Saratoga Springs, Nov. 7, 1857.*

We should think the soil described by our correspondent is of just the right character to yield a large profit by draining—the subsoil forming a good solid bottom for the tile.

We cannot judge the amount of labor and manure to make a good soil, not being acquainted with the character of the materials; but it is probable that after thorough draining, by the use of the subsoil plow and then of the double Michigan, a good depth could be attained, and a proper proportion of hard soil be mixed with the muck, to produce fine crops. A few loads of leached ashes per acre, and a moderate dressing of yard manure, say 25 to 40 loads, would probably give very fine crops.

#### Transplanting Trees.

MESSRS. EDITORS—In a few weeks I intend putting out a lot of trees. I am at a loss to know whether it is best to deprive the young trees, before setting them out, of all the small rootlets or fibres which adhere to the main roots, which I have seen recommended in the "Ohio Valley Farmer," or whether to plant the trees as they have been taken from the nursery, with all the fibres and roots on, with the exception of those that are bruised. You or any of your subscriber's advice in the matter, will much oblige a new beginner of fruit culture. C. F. *Cincinnati, Nov. 5, 1857.*

It may be laid down as a universal rule, that the greater the amount of uninjured roots that can be transferred from one place to another, in transplanting, the better. If all the roots and fibres can be placed in the new position, precisely as they stood before, and without drying in the air, the tree would not only be uninjured, but unchecked in growth. Where, however, the young fibres have been much exposed, dried, and killed, they are of no value, and would be better cut off, the larger roots sending out new fibres to replace them. It is, however, safer to let them remain unless badly injured, but care should be taken to spread them out well, and fill earth well in among them. It is only where they cause *interstices* in careless setting out, that they prove prejudicial.

#### To Harden Lard for Candles.

For 12 lbs. lard, take 1 lb. alum and 1 do. of saltpetre—dissolve the alum and saltpetre in a little water—mix the lard and water, or put them together over a fire, and boil till the water is all boiled out. It must be stirred while boiling to get the alum and saltpetre well mixed with the lard. There will be some sediment at the bottom.

For tallow I should think one-third the above would be a plenty to harden the softest tallow; but any one can tell by trying a little at first. If that is not enough, add more. C. F. W. *Union Mills, Ia.*



### Importance of Good Transplanting.

A correspondent of the *Genesee Farmer* states that he procured twenty dry and shrivelled peach trees last spring, of a nurseryman who had dug them up early in spring and heeled them in, and being "culls" had remained unsold. They were set out about the time that peach trees in the nursery row were coming out in full leaf. They were treated in the following manner: The bruised roots were pruned off, the tops closely shortened in, so that they might correspond with the reduced roots. They were carefully set in holes made about two feet across and eight inches deep. The earth was well filled in among the interstices, settling it with water poured in. They were then freely mulched with strawy manure. Every one lived and made "an extraordinary growth," while one in the same rows treated in the common manner (which we suppose means unshortened and unmulched,) did not live through half the summer.

The peach tree, more than any other, needs very free shortening back in setting out. We have succeeded better with trees three or four years from the bud, or twice the ordinary size, than with one year trees without this treatment. There is no other tree, that is more sensibly affected with good *after* culture—for example, after being set well, give it mellow cultivation the same season throughout, (or mulch it heavily with coarse manure,) and it will send out shoots about three feet long. Give it no cultivation or mulching, nor shortening back, and let the earth become hard and grown up with weeds, and the shoots will not be more than three inches long. This experiment is worth trying by any one who doubts it, on alternate trees in a row, or on alternate rows. We are willing to let any one who prefers or practices the old system of neglect, select from any nursery the finest peach trees that ever grew, and give them his favorite treatment for two years; and we will take the poorest "culls" that were ever discarded as worthless, if they only have life in them; and we will agree to beat him two-fold by means of the best management already mentioned. We speak from actual experiment.

### Notions in Horticulture.

**SULPHUR FOR BLIGHT.**—It has been lately asserted that sulphur inserted into an auger hole in a pear tree and plugged in, will arrest blight. We have no doubt the blight ceased after the plugging, and no less doubt that it would have ceased just as soon if the operation had been omitted.

**SALT AND GRUBS.**—The statement is occasionally republished that a few bushels of salt per acre will drive out all larvæ and especially grubs—and it was once asserted that a ring of salt placed around a cabbage plant would protect it completely. We tried this; but the grubs crossed the line and eat the plants, and then reposed themselves on the salt or elsewhere with evident indifference.

**LIME FOR THE CURCULIO.**—We perceive that this remedy is still recommended by some. Its very thorough application was made a few years since on four nectarine trees—which were carefully syringed with thin whitewash after every light rain, heavy dew, or chafing of the leaves, which took off the lime, at a cost greater than any continued jarring on sheets! The

success was so great that one tree bore no less than six nectarines—only, however on a tree that had a calf tied to it, and which kept up a constant stirring and jarring.

### Report of Various Experiments.

I soaked some carrot seed in a solution of salt-petre water six hours before planting, but could see no difference in the crops from seed planted in the usual way.

Dug six trenches for carrots sixteen inches deep—put some salt at the bottom of the trench, covered up the trench again from the next digging—sowed the seed after rolling it in plaster, half an inch deep, and six inches from plant to plant, the trenches being twelve inches apart. No manure applied with the carrots. Well satisfied with the produce, some of the carrots being twelve inches long and at the top seven inches round.

Trenched some more land for mangold wurzel, received from Mr. SILLETT, Kelsale, England. These received the same treatment as the carrots, with this difference that the plants were eighteen inches apart, and planted one inch deep—produce excellent, some of the plants weighing over six pounds.

Sowed some Kohl Rabi seed in June, sent me by JAMES LEVESQUE, Island of Jersey. Manured with horse and hen manure—turned under the manure with my digging fork eight inches deep—put the seeds in a hill one inch deep, the hills two and a half feet apart each way. My neighbors' chickens devoured most of the plants as they came up. The few that are left, are this day as large as my hat, and still growing. Boiled two of them to-day for my pig, who seems to relish them better than either potatoes, cabbage or mangold wurzel.

My wife has been my gardener this year, and I am happy to say I want no better help.

The Indian corn around here is but a poor crop, owing to the wetness of the season. I should like to hear from some of your Corn Kings, how to grow a good crop of corn in ordinary seasons.

I think, Messrs. Editors, it would confer a favor on many of the readers of your valuable paper, if all those who have been experimenting this year, would take to the plan of LEVI BARTLETT of N. H., G. HOWATT of N. J., and Mr. LEVESQUE—that is, state what kind of manure was used when their land was plowed, what depth the seed was planted, and what distance apart from plant to plant. P. SIDEBOTHAM. Valley Falls.

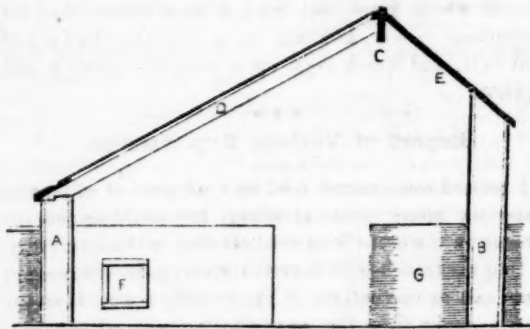
### Cure for Rheumatism.

RESPECTED EDITORS—I send you a recipe which I have taken from a Southern paper, as follows:

- 1 oz. oil Rosemary,
- 1 oz. oil Cloves,
- 1 oz. oil Origanum,
- 1 oz. Spirits Turpentine,
- 1 oz. Spirits Ammonia,
- 1 oz. Tincture Cantharides
- 1 oz. Alcohol.

Mix in a light glass-stopper bottle, and shake up when used. Heat a saucer on embers, pour a little in the saucer, and rub it on the part affected, with the hand, previously warmed by the fire, so as to encourage absorption.

The above is said to be very good for sick headache MAHLON PICKETT. N. C.



**Houses for Growing Vegetables in Winter.**

Very likely the above title looks something like a "sell" to many of our readers, a part of whom perhaps have hardly ever been in a green-house or vinery, let alone a house for the growth of vegetables in winter. Yet, if we mistake not, the time will come when all places of any considerable pretensions to a well kept garden, with one or more permanent hands besides the gardener to attend to the details, will have a house exclusively for the growth of vegetables in winter. In European countries the thing is quite common, and has been many years, and we see no reason why it should not be so here, among those whose means allow them to expend a portion in supplying real delicacies for the table. In many parts of Europe, Brocoli, Brussels sprouts, good cabbage, greens, and always kale, are constantly cut through the entire winter.

Very likely this may strike those unacquainted with this branch of gardening unfavorably, from apparent want of breadth enough to furnish any considerable quantity. But such crops as are best suited for production in this way, can be had in greater abundance than the arrangement would seem to warrant; more depending on the skill of the gardener in the proper sowing and distribution of his crops, than actual breadth of land.

In most cases, houses for this purpose would be better away from the ornamental department entirely, and placed contiguous to the culinary department where they properly belong, simply because they require to be extremely low, and as much under ground as circumstances will admit of, and if all exposed parts of the structure but the roof are well banked up in winter with manure, so much the better, because so much the less artificial heat is needed—a point of the utmost importance to complete success.

If, then, we decide upon building it slightly away from the ornamental part, we can well afford to be less particular in building, and something in the way of the engraving above will answer us, which, it will be remembered, is that of a cheap little pit or green-house erected by Mr. Dingwall, and which appeared last year in the pages of the *Co. Gent.*, mainly to show that *fifty feet wcs* built for about *one hundred and twenty-five dollars*, a not very large sum as first outlay for a place that will, as we intend to show before closing this article, furnish a large quantity of valuable young vegetables for winter consumption.

However, we would not urge by any means simply a cheap house to those whose means afford them to do everything well, as it is notorious that the extraordinary trial wood is put to in the damp atmosphere and incessant condensation going on in structures of this description, very soon causes it to decay, and hence

stone or brick is better for the back, front, and end, than double boards with saw-dust between them, as shown in the engraving.

A house, built after this plan, might be made at least 75 feet long, and all heated by one flue, if the end opposite the furnace was built some two feet higher, by which means a distribution of heat takes place, as pointed out some time since in this paper.

On the back *g*, could be forced in splendid condition, rhubarb, sea-kale, and asparagus, these vegetables growing finely where the light is not quite so powerful. A few late cauliflowers or brocoli, if laid in here would also turn in famously during winter.

The front, of course, would be occupied with radishes in succession, the same of lettuce, the various kinds of cress, and as the days begin to lengthen, quantities of early tomatoes, sown and potted into separate pots, to obtain large plants, a light or two of early lettuce, cabbage, cauliflowers, and even peas and beans, could be forwarded, ready to plant out as soon as the winter passed away.

Nor would the expert gardener stop here, but even get in a crop of bush beans, and the dwarf varieties of peas fit for the table, before the blasts of winter had fairly taken its leave.

All we can say in conclusion to those who have the means to do so, is, try it; our word for it, after a trial of rhubarb, sea-kale, and asparagus, at or soon after New-Years, with plenty of the best of lettuce, radishes, and other salads the entire winter, you will be long before you are willing to give up the same again for a return to the best of winter-stored vegetables only.

#### *Description of Wood Cut.*

The front *a*, is 3 feet 6 inches high, the back *b*, 4 feet, boarded on each side, the center filled with saw-dust. The highest point in the roof is 6 feet 6 inches, along which runs a meeting rail, *c*, supported by up-rights at the distance of 8 or 10 feet apart. On this rail rests the rafters *d*, made of 2 by 3 stuff; the sash in one length made with glass 6 by 8. The back roof *e*, is nothing more than inch boards, battened over the joints to be water-tight. The back *g*, has the soil left in. *F* is the flue, which would be better yet replaced with hot water pipes up the walks, as then the front might have the soil left in also, an admirable arrangement for growing vegetables. EDGAR SANDERS.

#### **Cutting and Preserving Grafts.**

When is the best time to cut grafts, and which is the best way to preserve them? W. H. C. Middlebury, Ind.

They may be cut at any time during winter, or even before, if growth has ceased. We have preserved late summer-cut buds, which had matured well, till the following spring, and used them successfully as grafts. Such kinds as are liable to be injured by the cold of winter, should be cut late in autumn, or before the usual advent of the severest days.

For preserving them we prefer to place them in successive layers of damp moss—the grafts being previously tied in small bundles, and each sort carefully and distinctly labelled. Damp sand (not wet) answers a good purpose. In either case, they may be laid in boxes in a cellar.

Another, and a good way, is to fasten them in a box open at top, without any packing, and then bury the



box, grafts and all, inverted, on a dry spot. The earth preserves their moisture, but does not touch them.

#### Substitutes for Hay.

Having closed up the work of one season, my thoughts occasionally stretch forward to survey and plan the work of the ensuing one. Among other things which I already see must be attended to, one is the providing of more fodder than I am likely to get from my meadows, corn and grainfields. In talking with neighbors as to what would be the best way of providing a sufficient supply of fodder for my stock, as my hay must come short by one half, I find quite a variety of opinion; and being without experience in providing for any such emergency, I am somewhat at a loss to determine which of the ways proposed would be *best on the whole*. Perhaps some of your readers may have been in similar need of a substitute for hay, and may have learned from experience some lesson which, if communicated, might save me and many others from going to that proverbially "dear school." One neighbor thinks he would sow corn for fodder; another would prefer millet; another thinks sorghum stalks, cut when small, would yield two crops in one season fit for hay; another would advise raising roots of different kinds, and so on. One is very positive that I cannot do better than to cut some acres of oats while yet considerably green, and make fodder of these *without* threshing. He says that horses will eat the straw of oats, cut while in a milky or soft doughy state, in preference to hay, and that while the *grain* will be worth but little less than if allowed to stand until fully ripe, the *straw* will be worth a great deal more. As the oats will not shell out, they may be fed as one would feed hay. But this would scarcely answer but for horses; and besides the yield of fodder per acre would not probably exceed one ton, (see *Cultivator* for 1856, p. 64,) while I might get two or three times that weight of fodder from millet or corn sown for that purpose. Moreover, if 400 lbs. of carrots, parsnips or beets are equal in nutritive power to 100 lbs. of hay or 100 lbs. of oats cut green, then I could raise, at the rate of 600 bushels per acre, a more economical substitute for hay in such roots, than in oats as above proposed. How much more it would cost to cultivate a substitute in the form of roots, and how much more it would cost to cut, slice, and prepare them for the use of stock, I cannot determine for want of experience.

In regard to the substitute for hay which may be found in rye or other good straw, cut up fine and mixed with meal, I would like to be furnished with data for estimating the expense of this mode of feeding, supposing that the work of cutting, mixing, and putting the mixture into the feeding boxes were to be paid for at the rate of ten cents an hour.

As such information as I ask for, with a statement of the expense of raising and preparing each substitute proposed, will take up a few hours of the time of any one who performs the work of presenting various substitutes, and their respective merits and cost, in a thorough manner, and as I and many others may be materially benefited by such information, I herewith place in the hands of the Editors of this paper one dollar, as my contribution towards compensating the individual who shall send in the best essay on the subject. Let a committee decide which is the best; and let others interested contribute to raise the premium to ten or twenty dollars. A. B. REYNOLDS.

#### Answer to J. E. W.—Poll Evil.

MESSRS. EDITORS—J. E. W. (p. 353) wishes to know what ails his friend's valuable mare. I have no doubt he will find the spine is diseased, and no remedy for her case. The difficulty will increase, and the motion in the hind part of the body will be like a sled drawn by a rope on level ground. When she (or the spine) becomes so diseased that she cannot get up alone, she may be forced, when up, into a fast trot, and move off well. When she is slackened into a walk again, the hind feet will reel about till she falls, or rather sits down. I had a very valuable horse once similarly affected, and when he had been for several months unable to get up alone, a regiment of troop was passing near where he lay. The band began to play, the horse sprang up and pranced around several minutes, to appearance as well as ever. As soon as the excitement subsided, he *sat* down. His health appeared good; would eat as well as ever, and kept in good flesh. After using every means I could hear of for his recovery, for eighteen months, I had him killed. The more I tried to cure him, the worse he grew. The cause of his disease I attributed to his being rode with a crupper to keep the saddle from hurting the withers; the weight of the man came too much upon the loins; the horse was turned to pasture after a hard day's ride, and the night was rather cold, and I supposed he took cold.

As I have began about horses, and having read some remarks in the past numbers of the *Co. Gent.*, respecting poll-evil, I will give you a statement of an operation I had performed upon a four year-old mare to cure the poll-evil in her ears.

When this mare was not over ten weeks old, I discovered a small quantity of matter running from the edge of each ear, about half-way from the bottom to the tip of the ear. I examined the ear and found a very small hole through the skin, about the size of a common knitting-needle. This continued with little alteration till she was four years old. When driving the mare a man came to me and said I must cure those running ears or I should lose my mare. I remarked I could discover no injury from those ears, except that the matter discharged would stick to the hair, and that would seldom be noticed. He said it would terminate in a *poll-evil*. I laughed at the idea of a horse dying with the *poll-evil* on the ear. He satisfied me he was right, and he recommended the application of *lunar caustic*, to eat out the tube. I adopted a more speedy, and I think cheaper and less painful course. I had to cast the mare to examine the ear. I found a knitting-needle could be run down toward the head more than an inch in length, just under the skin. The operator ran a wire into the hole, and then ripped the skin on the edge of the ear. I took out a sack near or quite  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in length and nearly a fourth of an inch in diameter. This sack contained matter. After taking out this sack from each ear, the skin was closed with two or three stitches, and in a few days the ears were healed, and no signs of poll-evil in the ears have appeared yet, now over three years. I have known two cases of the same disease since mine. The same course was adopted with the same success. No doubt lunar caustic would answer, but the application must be made more than once, and few horses will permit their ears to be thus handled, and casting is necessary. J. S. PETTIBONE. Bennington Co., Vt.

## Inquiries and Answers.

**COLORING PRINTS OF FRUITS.**—Where can I get twenty or thirty colored plates of leading varieties of the apple and pear? U. M. [Procure "The Fruits of America, by C. M. Hovey, containing colored plates of the choicest varieties cultivated in the United States." Two vols. of this work, have been completed, containing 48 plates each, delineating 96 varieties of fruits—price, extra binding, \$30. If you do not wish the full work, you can probably get a portion of it in numbers—four plates to a number, at \$1 each. Address Hovey & Co., Merchant's Row, Boston.

**GRAPES FROM SEED—CHILDS' SUPERB GRAPE.**—Will you inform me through the columns of the Country Gentleman, the mode of propagating grapes from seed, and also of the merits of "Childs' Superb Grape?" R. V. B. Buffalo. [Wash the pulp and plant the seeds the same as apple seeds, in a good rich mould. We have never had an opportunity of examining Childs' Superb grape but once; it is a very large, fine, and light colored variety, raised at Utica, doubtless from seeds of some exotic variety, as it possesses the foreign characteristics. We are informed that it has been grown without glass, but we should think its foreign peculiarities would require glass for its permanent success.]

**YELLOW LOCUST.**—I have just sown a piece of land with *Yellow Locust*. I planted the seeds in rows, covering them but very lightly; the seeds were planted Oct. 24, and were not scalded. I could not find any one who knew what time of year they should be sown, and having a few acres more which I wish to put to the same use, if you will tell me *when* to sow the seeds, as well as give me any other advice, you will oblige S. L. S. Guilford Center, Vt. [The seeds already planted will not probably grow. They must not only be scalded, but *swollen*. In pouring hot water on a quart of the seeds, and allowing those to cool and stand several hours, only a part will swell—these must be picked out and planted an inch deep—deeper in light soil, shallower in heavy soil. The rest are successively subjected to the same process, till all are swollen. They must be prepared and planted in spring, and would probably decay if done in autumn. Those not swollen remain in the soil without change for many years.]

**INQUIRY.**—A friend having a valuable mare, which, from some cause, is entirely useless, wishes to know what ails her, and how to remedy the ailment. She has lost the proper use of her hind legs. The difficulty seems to be principally situated about the loins. Will you or some of your correspondents answer this? J. E. W. New Ross, Ind., Nov. 14, 1857.

**SUGAR FROM CHINESE SUGAR CANE.**—I planted about fifteen rods of ground with Chinese sugar cane, about the middle of May. It has proved better than I anticipated. I have made almost a barrel of most excellent syrup. Will you, or some one, inform me how it can be made into sugar? A. RAYMOND. Conn. [Sugar, it is said, has been made from it, but we have seen no reliable directions for accomplishing the object. It was stated last spring, by an Illinois correspondent of this paper, that Mr. WM. H. BELCHER, the principal of a large sugar-refining establishment at St. Louis, was making preparations to test the question as to

whether marketable sugar could be made from the Chinese sugar cane; and it would appear from a letter from Mr. Belcher, recently published in the western papers, that he "has not succeeded in granulating it," and "very much fears that it will prove a failure so far as sugar making is concerned." Mr. Belcher adds—"A Louisiana sugar planter made this season, some seventy-five barrels of the Chinese cane syrup. I have seen his report; he could not granulate; and some barrels of this syrup from Louisiana came to the market. The color was good, but the taste slightly acid—not so sweet as the syrup or molasses of the sugar cane—and I am under the impression that it would ferment rapidly in warm weather."

**EASTER BEURRE AND CLAIRGEAU PEARS.**—Is the *Easter Beurre* pear worth cultivating to any extent on the pear stock? Is *Beurre Clairgeau* hardy and productive on the pear root? WM. MCKINLEY. [The *Easter Beurre* is best on quince stock—we would not recommend it grown on the pear. We think experience is not yet sufficient to determine the value of the *Clairgeau* on pear, but would like the experience of our correspondents.]

**LEATHER CHIPS AS A MANURE—PEABODY'S STRAWBERRY, &c.**—Will you please inform me through the columns of the Country Gentleman, whether clippings of leather, the refuse of shoemakers' and harness makers' shops, are of any value as a manure, and if so, how they should be used? Also where plants of Peabody's new strawberry may be had, and whether Brinckle's Orange Raspberry will stand the winter in New-Jersey without protection? A. R. Red Bank, New-Jersey. [We know of no experiment that has been made with the clippings of leather as a manure. Skins, before tanning, would form one of the most powerful fertilizers, but their change from an easily decaying and soluble animal substance to an insoluble compound with tannic acid, giving them their value by rendering them impermeable to water, must necessarily greatly reduce their value as a manure. Still, if plowed into the soil, the slow decomposition of the clippings may be of some value to growing plants during a term of years.]

Peabody's Strawberry is offered for sale by J. M. THORBURN & Co., of New-York. Brinckle's Orange Raspberry will prove perfectly hardy in New-Jersey.]

**TRANSPLANTING TULIP TREES.**—Can I safely transplant, with a ball of frozen earth, a tulip tree, 20 feet high and 6 inches in diameter? and how large must the ball of earth be? T. M. N. Spuyten Duyvil, N. Y. [The tulip tree has long roots, with few fibres, and is therefore unusually difficult to transplant. If the above is a tree from the woods, the removal would probably result in failure—at best it would check the growth much for several years. If a cultivated tree, the risk would be less—but in either case, it would be better in every respect to take younger trees.]

**MOWING MACHINES.**—I would like to be informed through the columns of the Co. Gent., or otherwise, whose mowing machines, at the trial at Syracuse, drew the several prizes. Also, how or where I may get information of all the particulars of all the different machines, as to draft, side-draft, difference of construction, prices, &c. I had supposed that perhaps the judges or others might publish, or cause to be publish-



ed, a pamphlet giving full particulars, though I have seen no statement to that effect. E. L. R. *Ada, Mich.* [When the prizes for Reapers, tried at Syracuse, were declared at Louisville, it was understood that the judges had not been able to come to a decision in regard to the mowing machine. Whether they have since come to an agreement, we have not learned. When their report is published, it will, we presume, furnish the information desired by our correspondent.]

**A SAMPLE OF SORGHO SUGAR.**—*Eds. Country Gentleman*—I see many inquiries about the making of sugar from Chinese Sugar Cane, and if it can be made, &c. I send you a specimen of some manufactured by my neighbor, Geo. Pelton, Esq. Mr. P.'s process of husking can be given some future time if desirable, and if you have a better sample please inform us through your valuable paper. *LUCIUS HOLCOMB. Trumbull Co, Ohio.* [The sample sent is a moist, rather pleasantly-flavored sugar, lighter in color than much of the maple sugar sold, and we should think less objectionable for peculiarity of taste than the ordinary unrefined cane sugar. We shall be glad to receive at an early day the proposed details of its manufacture, including cost, &c., &c.]

**PLANTING PEACH STONES.**—In the *Country Gentleman* of October I notice that T. R. M. wishes to know how to plant peach stones. My way is to plant them in a bed of light soil, with coal ashes or sand mixed with it, so that they will freeze and thaw through the winter. In the spring when they come up, plant them out like cabbage in rows, and bud the same year. They always do well here when treated in this manner, and some even get on so well that they get too large for budding when the proper season arrives. *E. R. Carondelet, Mo.*

**REMEDY FOR HORSES THROWING THEIR TAILS OVER THE REINS.**—Having read several communications in your paper, on the subject of the lines, in driving, getting under the horse's tail, and endangering his kicking or running away, I will state how I have removed the difficulty very satisfactorily,—not in removing the lines when caught by the tail, as any one of observation will do it gently and cautiously, but to prevent the difficulty. I use a couple of open martingale hooks, attached each to a strip of leather 9 to 12 inches long, and the ends tacked to the roof or bows of the carriage in front. The lines passing through the hooks, keep them above the sweep of the tail, and do not in the least interfere with the driving. Until I adopted this plan, I often found it troublesome, and with some of my horses, dangerous to drive them. *E. S. Harewood, Md.*

In your paper, No. 18, Vol. X, I notice an "Inquiry" of B. E. H., for a remedy to prevent his mare from throwing her tail over the reins. Please inform B. E. H. to hitch his mare to a buggy, and as soon as hitched, fasten a chestnut burr under her tail; it will keep her tail down, although she may run for a while. If that does not answer, cut off her tail. *EXPERIATE. Leavenworth, K. T.*

**CHESS.**—In what books or papers can the arguments and proofs, that scientific men have given, be found, showing that wheat will not turn into chess. Please inform us through the *Country Gentleman*, because a farmer informs me that before this time next year, he will prove that wheat will turn into chess. *J. L. F. [We*

**AG. CHEMISTRY.**—*J. L. F., Dumfries, C. W.* There is no agricultural journal, that we are aware of, that devotes a portion of its pages regularly to the elucidation of agricultural chemistry. As to books, we would recommend Norton's *Elements of Scientific Agriculture*, (price 60 cents,) and Prof. Johnston's *Elements of Ag. Chemistry and Geology*—price \$1.00.

**AG. SCHOOLS.**—I understand that there is a seminary near your place, which has for its object the advancement of its students in agricultural art and science. If you will state the facts about it, or send me a circular containing them, you will much oblige *H. D. Altona, Pa.* [We have no such institution at present, in this State; but the foundation for an Agricultural College for the State of New-York, has been laid. The citizens of Seneca county having subscribed the sum of \$40,000, for this purpose. the State appropriated a like sum, making \$80,000. With a portion of this fund, a farm of over 600 acres was purchased about a year since, located in Ovid, Seneca Co. This farm has been carried on the past year by the trustees, under the superintendence of Hon. SAMUEL CHEEVER, President of the institution, and preparations made for the erection of a large college building the coming season. We may therefore reasonably hope that the time is rapidly approaching when New-York will have an Agricultural College in successful operation.]

have published these "arguments and proofs," about once a year for more than a quarter of a century. During this period, at different times, prizes have been offered, of \$50 and \$100, to any person who would prove that wheat does ever turn to chess. If your friend produces the proof, he will do what hundreds have failed to accomplish.]

**MAKING HONEY.**—I received a circular of Professor James T. Horne of New-York, in relation to making a substitute for honey. Thinking you might know something of his preparation and its value, I request you to inform me what you know. I want nothing to do with any humbug. *G. W. Y. Rocky River, Tenn.* [We know nothing about "Prof. Horne," or his preparation.]

**CORN HUSKER.**—*A. Moss, Boone Co., Ill.* You can ascertain in relation to the Corn Husker mentioned, by addressing the patentee, Mr. PERKINS, West Killingly, Ct., or Nourse, Mason & Co., Boston, Mass. We do not know what arrangements, if any, have been made for its manufacture.

**INQUIRY.**—It is said that sows will not fatten as well as boars. What is the effect of a quart of lump charcoal thrown into their food at the commencement of heat, with reference to the subject of fattening? Will some of your intelligent correspondents enlighten us upon this subject. *CREOLE. New-Jersey.*

**SMALL POTATOES FOR SEED.**—A correspondent of the *Ohio Farmer* says that he raised, last summer, from "less than three bushels of very small seed," over one hundred bushels of potatoes, it being the best crop he ever raised. Mr. R. RHODES, in the *N. E. Farmer*, states that he planted last spring nine pounds of potatoes, so small that it took 800 to make the nine pounds, placing four in a hill, and that the product was 375 lbs., of which 311 lbs. were of full size, handsome and well grown.

## Notes for the Month.

**INCREASED DEMAND FOR TILE.**—Mr. JOHNSTON alluded, in our last no., to the greatly increased demand for tile in Western New-York the past season, and we are informed that Messrs. C. & W. M'CAMMON, tile manufacturers of this city, have sold this season 750,000 tile, being an increase of about one-half over the sales of the previous year. We took a walk last week to the works of these gentlemen, whose energy in calling public attention to the subject of Draining, and their close personal attention to the manufacture and sale of Tiles, have at length rendered unusually extensive accommodations necessary to enable them promptly to meet their orders. They employ five machines, and have two kilns, which are burnt about once a week during the warmer months. The past season they have used coal instead of wood for fuel, their previous experience enabling them to control the heat from this source, equally well, while at the same time it is a measure of considerable economy. They use steam power to grind the clay. They have now three capacious sheds in which the tile are dried before burning,—containing in the neighborhood of 22,000 feet of shelving, or nearly four miles. They propose putting up another this winter which will add 6,600 feet to the above amount. They have a large stock of tile on hand to meet the spring demand, and expect to refit their establishment before the weather becomes warm enough to begin the manufacture again.

Messrs M'C. have been engaged some time in perfecting a steam engine for the manufacture of tile,—combining boiler and all in one machine, and calculated to turn out some 25,000 pieces of tile *per diem*, with only four hands, one to supply the clay, a second to feed it, and the third and fourth to remove the tile as fast as turned out. Should they succeed, as we trust they may, in making it realize their present expectations, it can scarcely fail to repay the expense and trouble they have devoted to it.

**PROFITS OF FARMING**—I would send you a few remarks on the profits of farming, accompanied by some facts, but I thought probably you would not think them worth publishing, as you seem to regard it as a fixed fact that farming is or can be made a profitable business, by bringing to its aid a proper share of intelligence. I believe with Mr. Bagg, that farming does not generally pay. What I mean, and I suppose he means, is they do not in general make their living and clear the legal interest on the capital invested. J. W. L.

We do not need facts to prove that many farmers do not make money by farming. The evidence of this truth is too manifest in all sections of our country. What we maintain is, that it is, in general, the fault of the men engaged in it, and not in the business itself. There is no profession or business, whether of trade or labor, that may not be shown to be unprofitable if the proof of it is to be found in the failure of many of those engaged in it to make money. A portion of all professional men, and of all those engaged in trade, manufactures, and the mechanic arts, make money by their business, while a much larger portion "do not make a living, and clear the legal interest on the capital invested." So it is with farmers—a portion of them find farming profitable, while others do not. But we be-

lieve that if the facts could be ascertained, it would be found that at least as large a portion of farmers find their business profitable as of those engaged in other occupations.

**AG. ADDRESSES.**—A correspondent of the N. E. Farmer, asks the following pertinent questions: "Why do our agricultural societies employ lawyers to write and deliver the addresses at their annual fairs? Are there no farmers who are qualified to write, and who know and can tell us as much about agricultural interests as lawyers?" We have no objection to lawyers or any other professional men, provided they have a taste for agriculture, and know enough about it to enlighten their hearers upon the subject; but for our own part, we should greatly prefer to listen to the remarks of a sensible practical farmer, who could detail, in a style however homely, the results of his own observation and experience, rather than to an essay on the history of agriculture, or the laudation of rural life, however eloquent it might be, and we hope the time is not distant, when our County Ag. Societies will make it a rule to select for their speakers men who know "where-of they speak." There are few counties which cannot furnish men, from among their own ranks, competent to address an assemblage of farmers intelligently and profitably.

**LIQUID MANURE.**—In his letter in this paper, Mr. JOHN JOHNSTON having alluded to the "immense loss from liquids running from his barn-yards," and which he has been unable to save, we give the plan pursued by Dr. CRISPELL, one of the best farmers on the Hudson. In the fall, his barn-yard, which is mostly protected by good sheds, is entirely cleared of manure, after which it is covered to the depth of six or eight inches with straw. Upon this straw the stock is wintered when out of the stalls, and upon it the bedding and manure from the stables is spread daily during the winter, and such straw and refuse stuff is added as is found necessary to keep the animals clean. In this way the manure and straw is tread sufficiently compact to induce, with the urine from the stock yarded upon it, a gentle fermentation, which prevents it from freezing. Thus every particle of the manure, both liquid and solid, from the sheep and such stock as is not put in the stalls at night, is saved, and well incorporated with the straw and refuse matter thrown into the yard.

**SPREADING MANURE IN FALL AND WINTER.**—In addition to what is said by Mr. CLARK, in his paper on this subject, on another page, we may add that we learned from WM. H. LADD, Esq., late President of the Ohio State Board of Agriculture, in a conversation with him a year or two since, that it had been his practice for some years, to draw out and spread his manure during the latter part of winter. He adopted this course, after having convinced himself that the manure thus applied was more effectual than when spread in the spring and immediately plowed under. The question is an important one—one upon which more carefully conducted experiments are needed.

**DUCKS AND CRANBERRIES**—D. L. HALSEY, Esq., of Victory, Cayuga Co., will please accept editorial thanks for a pair of plump black Cayuga Ducks, in the form best adapted to practically test their quality—flanked by a case of beautiful large Cranberries, which speak as well for his mode of raising them, as their com-



panions do for his skill in feeding. Our appreciation of the Governor's last message has been much increased thereby, and, whatever may have been the case before, now we shall not lack either a cause, or a dinner for Thanksgiving.

**A WANT.**—We give the following extract from a private letter, because we know that there are others who would be glad to avail themselves of the services of an architect who thoroughly understands the requirements of the true country resident,—that is one who not only lives in the country, but on the proceeds of his farm or plantation. We have several excellent works on Rural Architecture, but they are all, with one exception, deficient in adaptedness to the architecture of the farm, where all the buildings, from the residence to the smallest out-house, require to be designed and arranged with a view to the particular purposes for which they are to be devoted, as well as to the general appearance of the whole:

"I have been long wishing to find out a good practical farm building designer and architect. City architects, generally, know nothing of the uses of such country buildings, and consequently, even if they would undertake a job of the kind, would probably succeed badly, and cause great expenditure. Nor even would any want be supplied by Landscape Gardeners, whose province is with country dwellings and grounds, gardeners' houses, graperies, &c. I look for a man who is at least a master Carpenter or Builder, and who has a head for and experience in planning buildings, and who knows what are the requirements of a farm and can arrange in the most convenient form not only the parts of one building, but the disposition of several buildings, yards, pens, stacks, woods, with relation to each other as well as to the common center."

**HONORARY.**—We mentioned a few weeks since, that Col. J. M. SHERWOOD of Auburn, had been elected an Honorary Member of the "Imperial Economical Society of St. Petersburg, Russia." We have since learned that at the same time diplomas of Honorary Membership of the same Society, were received by Col. B. P. JOHNSON, Secretary of our State Ag. Society, Hon. GEO. GEDDES of Onondaga county, and Dr. A. L. ELWYN of Philadelphia.

**LARGE HOGS.**—A farmer in Worcester county, Mass., reports in the *Ploughman* that he has just had two hogs killed, which weighed thirteen hundred and twelve pounds (1312 lbs.!) One weighed 671 lbs., and the other 641. They were eighteen months old. Nothing farther is stated, either about the breed, mode of feeding, or anything else.

Now we would like to know why those who tell the public such stories about large hogs, or large crops, or large anything else, so often stop in the middle of their story. They must be quite well aware that if they were telling such a story as the above to a neighbor or two, or to the members of a farmers' club, they would not be allowed to stop short where the above story stops. They would have to answer quite a number of questions before the curiosity of the hearers became satisfied, or before the information could be accounted of any value for practical purposes. To make the above story complete, or of value for practical purposes, the reader should have been informed as to the breed of these animals, as to the manner and material employ-

ed in feeding, as to the cost of production, and as to any other point which the narrator would have been asked for information if he had been addressing himself to a group of listeners instead of to a circle of readers. There are facts, every now and then, communicated to the agricultural papers, which are quite unsatisfactory and uninteresting, because the writers neglect to inform their readers as to *how*, and at *what cost* the results they report were obtained. They tell only a part of their story. We should like to hear the rest of the above story.

**A SPLENDID MANURE.**—In illustration of what is really the most important of all applications, and equally applicable to all soils, we copy the following anecdote which appears under the above head in an English newspaper. This kind of "manuring" includes many other processes, besides the one here particularly specified:—At the Woodbury plowing match, a few days ago, Mr. John Daw told the following anecdote: Once having drained a field where nothing ever had grown before, I was standing near it looking at a crop I had there, when a neighboring farmer came up. We have one or two loose farmers in our neighborhood; one of them, in fact, came from Woodbury—(laughter)—but this is not the man I am speaking of—who came up and said to me, 'That is a bootiful crop; how did ee get it, Sur?' I replied, 'Brains.' (Laughter) 'Wat manure the field wi brains?' (More laughter) The fact was, I had drained the field, so I said 'Yes.' (Renewed laughter.) He replied, 'Lord, yer honor, where did ee get um?' (Roars of laughter.)

**NEW-YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.**—At a meeting of the Trustees, held in this city last week, we learn that the plan and specifications for the College Buildings, prepared by S. E. Hewes, architect, of Albany, were chosen, and \$250 awarded him for the same. Awards of \$100 each were also made to H. M. Wilcox, architect, Buffalo, and Rev. H. B. Taylor of the Fort Edward Institute, for plans, &c. submitted by them. The Executive Committee were instructed to contract for the materials and erection of the buildings. The President rendered a report of the farm management and operations for the past season, which was throughout very satisfactory to the Trustees. The course of studies to be pursued, was reported on by a committee having the subject in charge, but final action deferred until the next meeting, Feb. 9, 1858.

The President and Secretary were directed to prepare a memorial to be presented to Congress, asking for an appropriation to each State of the Union, of so much of the public land as will be sufficient to endow and put in operation an Agricultural College in each State in the Union.

**SUGAR CANE FOR SWINE.**—A correspondent of the Southern Cultivator, G. D. HARMON, of Mississippi, says—"In September I weighed two shoats and put them in separate pens. No. 1 weighed when put up, 76 pounds. It was fed on what corn it would eat and slops from the kitchen. No. 2 weighed 72 pounds, and was fed exclusively on Chinese Sugar Cane, seed and all. They were fed something over three weeks, and again weighed. No. 1, or the shoat fed on corn, weighed 115 pounds, having gained 39 pounds. No. 2, or the shoat fed on the Sugar Cane, weighed 110 pounds, having gained 37 pounds. This result shows that Chinese

Sugar cane is very near equal to corn, as food for hogs. And take the acre for acre, and Sugar Cane is very far superior to corn, from the fact that it will produce at least five times as much. In other words, five acres of Sugar Cane is equal as food for hogs, to 25 acres of corn."

**MEASUREMENT OF HAY.**—A writer in the *N. E. Farmer*, who seems to have had some considerable experience in the buying or selling of hay, says that hay is bought and sold in his region (Reading, Ct.) mostly by measure, and that 512 feet are usually taken as equal to a ton, more being required near the top of a mow, and less near the bottom. He states that he once sold a barnful of hay, and the bottom weighed a ton to 400 feet, and that the average weight of the whole—top, middle and bottom—was a little less than 500 feet for a ton. He says that he should be satisfied to take a common barnful of hay,—scaffold and bay,—at the rate of 500 feet for a ton.

This agrees with the report of one of our subscribers at the west, who had occasion to buy hay last spring when it was uncommonly scarce and dear. The hay was a mixture of clover and timothy, and was the lower layer of three feet in thickness of a considerable bulk on a scaffold over a stable, equal in density, perhaps, to the middle of a mow 12 to 16 feet in depth. A ton was found to measure 510 feet. In buying or selling hay by measure, it should be remembered that that which is coarse and rank will be more bulky than that made from fine grass or clover, or from any grass with a thick bottom.

**WHETHER TO SELL OR TO FEED.**—There is no question that has not more than one side, and to judge without proper examination of all, is a prevailing error, especially with Agricultural readers and writers, and let us add, perhaps still more with farmers who are neither readers or writers. Much has been said in our columns of late in regard to the advantages of feeding stock as a source of both money and manurial profit. As illustrating, however, that even this subject may assume a different aspect on being looked at in a different light, we copy the following from a correspondent in the *Rural New-Yorker*:

"Suppose corn in the State of New-York, owing to a light crop and a foreign demand, should be worth one dollar a bushel, while it was worth to put into beef or pork only fifty cents a bushel,—would the manure from a bushel of corn pay the other fifty cents? I think not. Not that I undervalue manure,—it is everything to the farmer, but I would get it as cheap as I could. I would try clover, mix swamp muck with barn-yard manure; use ashes, plaster, lime, guano—anything that would, on trial, prove the cheapest. But I am clearly of opinion that, although as a general rule, coarse grain, hay and straw should be fed on the land where they grew, there are many exceptions to the rule. I have known men let straw rot down, with very little benefit from feeding it, rather than sell it for \$2 a load; while at the same time they could buy as much manure as a load of straw would make for two shillings. It is unfortunate that we have not more reliable data to base our calculations upon."

Although the state of things here represented may be of rare occurrence, abundant room is afforded for the investigations of that experimental farm (when we get it), to shed light upon the course that may be most economically pursued—upon the most advantageous method of converting materials into manure,—upon its actual worth to the farmer, as compared with the

money-value of these materials—upon the character of different manures, and what "would on trial, prove the cheapest."

But as a general principle, we are strongly disposed to the belief that there is nothing *cheaper*, nothing better adapted to the wants of the land, nothing that will in such a majority of cases more surely prove of lasting benefit to the farm and to the farmer, than a system of feeding judiciously selected, combined however with the manufacture and saving all home-made manures, and the purchase if necessary, of such as plaster, lime, &c., in addition.

**STRAWBERRY PLANTS BY MAIL TO TEXAS.**—Mr. DINGWALL informs us that he has just heard of the arrival at Bonham, Texas, of a package of Wilson's Albany Strawberry plants, sent there by mail some two months ago. They were carefully done up in oiled silk, and mailed at the Albany post office Oct. 18th. They arrived at their destination Nov. 10th—the passage thus taking over *three weeks*. Mr. D. was, however, much pleased to learn that they were found "in excellent condition, making new roots, and putting out new leaves." The success which has attended experiments of this kind, opens a new means of access to our best nurseries and florists, to those living in the most remote parts of the country, and will doubtless be both a convenience to them and an addition to the revenues of "Uncle Sam." Ought he to charge *letter postage* on such packages?

**AGRICULTURAL READING.**—You say that agricultural reading is not a luxury, but a necessity. Upon this point allow me to remark, that with me it is *both a luxury and a necessity*; hence you will perceive that I attach a two-fold importance to your periodicals. I like the *Cultivator*—like it for its timely suggestions, its faithful warnings, and its sage counsels. The "Register" is an excellent thing, just what every farmer needs, and no one who can afford the "weed" for his boys should think of doing without it. N. D.

**KING PHILIP CORN.**—In the statement which lately appeared in the *Country Gentleman* in relation to a crop of this variety of corn, an omission has led to a mistake on the part of some readers. It was stated that *sixty bushels* were obtained per acre, from an average portion of the field, without the application of any manure. Some have supposed there were but sixty bushels of *ears*; but *shelled* corn, not ears, was intended. The actual product was one hundred and twenty bushels of ears per acre.

**HEAVY BUNCHES OF GRAPES.**—Mr. HOWATT, who furnishes a valuable article on the "Culture of the Grape in Cold Vineries," for this number, says, in a private note—"I have grown Black Hamburgs in cold vineries, weighing six pounds to a bunch. I see I was beaten three years ago in Philadelphia, a man having raised some weighing six pounds two ounces. These two weights have not yet been beaten."

**ATWATER'S SEWING MACHINE.**—In answer to inquiries, we can state that this machine is remarkable for its ingenuity and extreme simplicity, and judging from an examination of its parts, we should think it very durable. The price is only \$15, and we are informed by some of the manufacturers that the actual cost of making the machine is less than six dollars.



We only regret that the inventor has placed it in very inefficient hands for general introduction, and that the general agent or owner of the patent, requires such exorbitant prices for county and State rights as really to prohibit its introduction into most places.

**CAN'T AFFORD TO STOP IT.**—In any event, I cannot afford to do without the Country Gentleman, which I have found constantly a treat of good things, cautious in the advocacy of new and doubtful discoveries and inventions, conservative in matters of contested agricultural doctrine, never allowing the brilliancy of a novel idea to dazzle and blind the eyes of sound judgment, and in the right track as regarding labor as something more than the mere handmaid of science, but rather as the noble corner stone of all success in agricultural enterprise. "*Long may it wave!*" W. B. M. Cedar Lake, Wis.

✍ We are indebted to Hon. SAMUEL DIXON, our M. C., for the Ag. Report of the Com. of Patent Office for 1856—to LEVI BARTLETT, Esq., for Transactions N. H. Ag. Society for 1856—to WM. H. STARR, Esq., for "The Illustrated Pear Culturist," a notice of which will appear hereafter. We have also received an "Exposition of the Natural Position of Mackinaw City," with maps, &c.

**FARMER'S CLUBS.**—We find the following seasonable hints in the Ohio Farmer: "Don't fail to get up a 'Farmers' Club' in your circle. Or revive the old one if you have had one. You must do this or something like it, to keep up with the times. Hold a weekly meeting for mutual improvement in agriculture for the next sixteen weeks, and mark down the result, and we think you will be convinced that such an arrangement will be useful." Such Clubs ought to be formed in every town in the country, where farmers could get together and spend at least one evening in a week in the discussion of matters pertaining to their own particular pursuits. Much valuable information could thus be obtained, and a spirit of inquiry and emulation would be awakened, which would exhibit its effect in the labors and profits of the coming season.

**HOG CHOLERA.**—The hog cholera is, and has been very prevalent in this county, some five or six miles south of this place, many farmers having lost their entire stock. No cause for it can be found—no cure either, though several nostrums have been tried. I mention it to correct the prevailing impression that it is caused by poisonous whisky slops, as there are no distilleries in the county, and hogs are seized with it in the range and in enclosures. SYDNEY SPRING. White Co., Ill.

**DISEASE IN CATTLE.**—A neighbor of mine has lost two calves and one cow within a few months, by a disease which we suppose may be Murrain in the head. The symptoms are trembling, a yellowish discharge from the nose, and a "blood-shot eye." If you or any of your readers have had experience in the disease described, and can give the symptoms more fully, the cause, preventive, and cure, you will much oblige A READER.

Good temper is like a sunshiny day; it sheds gladness and brightness on everything.

A good wood pile is one sign of a good home.

### Chinese Sugar Cane in Indiana.

**EDITORS COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.**—You have, I perceive, many communications in regard to experiments with the Chinese Sugar Cane—mostly on a small scale. Experiments conducted in this way cannot be entirely satisfactory, for the cost of manufacture, (which is the principal item to be considered in determining its value as a staple crop,) cannot be truly estimated. Besides this, a wooden mill, or some more rude contrivance, is used for expressing the juice, and thus justice is not done to the capacity of this crop.

Without burthening you with details, I will briefly state to you some facts gained by a pretty lengthy experience. I used one of Hedges, Free & Co.'s vertical iron roller mills, which performed its work admirably. I used for boiling down, cast-iron pans—procured of the same—large and shallow, and set in a brick range. I raised three acres of the cane, which did well—attaining a height of from 11 to 12 feet. Some was planted in hills and some in drills. I worked up my own, besides a great many small patches of my neighbors. I have learned as follows:—

1st. That it will make an excellent syrup, but that much depends on its manufacture. I have seen some of very inferior quality.

2d. The best quality of syrup is obtained when the cane is fully ripe, and I think also, without having made accurate experiments, that the quantity to be obtained is greatest at that stage.

3d. That our lands that have produced this year (one of our best seasons,) 50 bushels corn to the acre, have yielded 200 to 250 gallons molasses. With proper planting and culture, I believe 300 gallons may be easily obtained.

4th. That a greater yield of juice may be obtained by planting in drills 6 or 8 inches apart, keeping all suckers down.

5th. That severe frosts injure the quality of molasses, whether the cane be fully ripe or not, and that therefore,

6th. In our latitude it should be planted from 1st to 15th May, that it may ripen by the middle or last of September.

For the benefit of some who talk about its yield not exceeding 100 gallons to the acre, let me give you the product of a patch belonging to one of my neighbors, and worked up by me. He had five rows, 90 feet long and 4 feet apart, and the product was 19 gallons. This is at the rate of 460 gallons to the acre. It was grown on a piece of ground that had formerly been a barnyard, and all the suckers were left to grow, and worked up. Had it been allowed to mature, I think it would have gone up to the rate of 500 to the acre. The high value of this new plant is a fixed fact with us. J. A. FOOTE. Terre Haute, Ind., Dec. 1, 1857.

**MESSRS. TUCKER & SON.**—Last spring I procured a package of seed at Pittsburgh, of R. Peter's raising, —half a pint, for which I paid one dollar. I planted it May 18. It was long coming up, and when up it did not grow two inches in two weeks. At the end of two weeks it began to go up, and by first of September it had reached the height of 12 feet. I should have stated that my seed planted 51 square rods, six seeds to a hill, 3 1-2 feet apart each way. I took all the suckers off, suckering it once every week for three

weeks in succession, taking from five to fifteen off of each hill.

I made a three-roller mill to grind my cane, after the plan of a cider mill, but having but one row of cogs at the top of the rollers. It worked well with one horse, pressing the juice out tolerably clean by putting the cane through twice. Anxious to know whether my cane would make molasses or not, and whether my mill would answer the purpose, about the middle of September, when the heads were out, I cut 250 canes, which made 25 gallons juice—10 canes made one gallon juice—25 gallons juice made 14-quarts molasses, a good article. By this time I began to think my cane was no humbug. On the 14th October the seed began to get black. I cut 250 canes; cut the tops off and stripped their blades; then run them through the mill—got 20 gallons juice, which made four gallons thick syrup, far superior to the first boiling. I then concluded to let the balance of my cane stand until the seed ripened; but a few nights after my last making, Jack Frost came and spoiled all my seed that was not yet ripe, and fodder too; so I had to go to work and work up my cane. Although the seed and fodder were spoiled, I found it had not spoiled the cane for making molasses, but rather increased the quantity and quality. I finished making up my cane 29th October, and from 51 rods we had 72 gallons of syrup—a better article than I paid \$1.12 a gallon for. I sold several gallons, for which I got \$1 per gallon, and the balance we have, which will save me buying molasses for one year, which is no small item in my family. I think every farmer ought to raise his own sugar cane, and make their own molasses, for it certainly pays a larger profit than any thing that can be grown on the same quantity of ground.

I tried to make sugar from some syrup, but it would not grain. G. H. BALSLEY, SR. *Connellsville, Fayette Co., Pa.*

MESSRS. EDITORS—About the middle of May I receive a package of Sugar Cane seed from the Patent Office, which I planted in ordinary corn land, two feet one way and four the other. It came up feebly, and grew delicately for several weeks, after which it grew most luxuriantly, some attaining the height of ten or twelve feet when it formed its head, which perfectly matured against the first frost. I cut one hundred canes of that which had ripened first, from which, when pressed, I obtained 26 pints of juice. This, after going through the process of clarification and boiling, made six pints of fine light colored syrup, superior in quality to the best New Orleans molasses; which was a yield of one pint of syrup to four and a half of juice, and also a pint of juice to every four canes. Thus allowing a pint of juice to every four canes, or one hill, and at the above mentioned distances, an acre will contain five thousand four hundred and forty-five hills, which being divided by five, leaves one thousand and eighty pints, or about one hundred and thirty-five gallons per acre; making a remunerative yield to the farmer even at twenty-five cents per gallon. Several of my enterprising neighbors have also tested it, and are well satisfied with the result of their experiments.

One of the principal officers of the Agricultural Bureau at Washington, has given information that out of several thousand reports, not one shows a failure. This will be gratifying to all, and proves conclusively

that it is no "Morus multicaulis," Rohan potato, or humbug. SENSENEY WRIGHT. *Middletown, Va*

I planted about 200 hills on light sandy land, and when it came up it was such miserable looking little stuff, that I thought surely it must be a failure with me, and then the cut worms got at it and eat up about a fourth of it. I hoed the remainder once and plowed it once, which was all the work done to it, and now for the result.

I made about nine gallons of good molasses from it, which I prefer to the best Orleans molasses, and I am well satisfied that I lost full one-third of the juice for want of a better mill. I am very confident that it will succeed to a charm as far as molasses is concerned. I intend to plant about two acres next spring. A. A. COLE. *Flouerville, Ind.*

#### Cure for Inflammatory Rheumatism.

MESSRS. EDITORS—I have been a sufferer from that most painful of all diseases, the inflammatory rheumatism, and at times wholly unable to move, dress or feed myself. After applying all kinds of liniment outwardly, and all kinds of medicines inwardly, without receiving any benefit, I put myself under hydropathic treatment and diet, and have had no rheumatism since, and have the perfect use of all my limbs. F. M. I.

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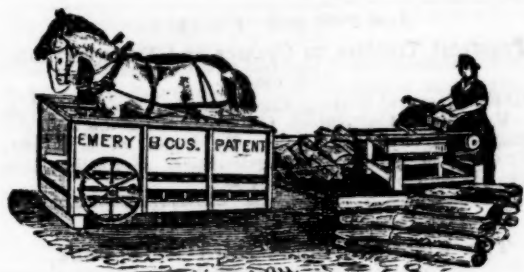


**Albany County Agricultural Society.**

The Annual Meeting of the Society for the election of officers for the ensuing year, will be held at the City Hall in the City of Albany, at 11 o'clock A. M. on Wednesday the 15th day of January, 1858. All interested in the future welfare of the Society, are respectfully invited to attend.

A. F. CHATFIELD, Secretary.

Jan. 1—w&mlt

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Dec. 17—w4tm1t

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THOS. LIPSCOMB,  
WM. A. ALLEN,  
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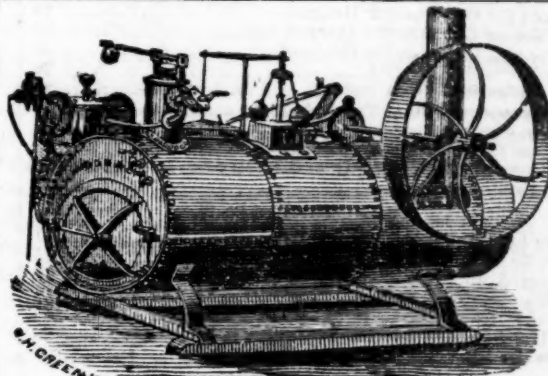
H. D. DAVIDSON.

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WM. MCNEIL.

May 14—w&mtf.



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4 2500 "	7 by 5 "	355	40 "	6 "
5 3600 "	7 by 5 "	550	44 "	7 "
8 4800 "	9 by 6½ "	700	48 "	8 "
10 6000 "	10 by 6½ "	875	60 "	8 "
12 7500 "	14 by 6½ "	1050	72 "	12 "

The above price includes boxing and delivered on board cars.

April 23—wtf—June 1—mtf.

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